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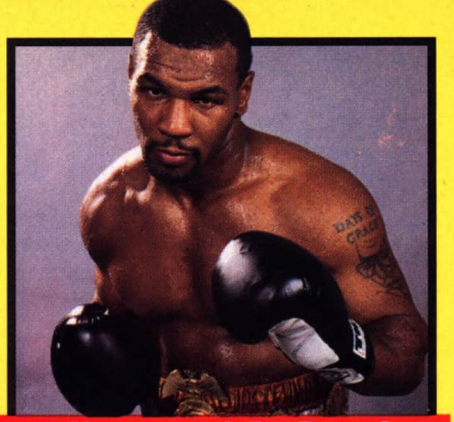

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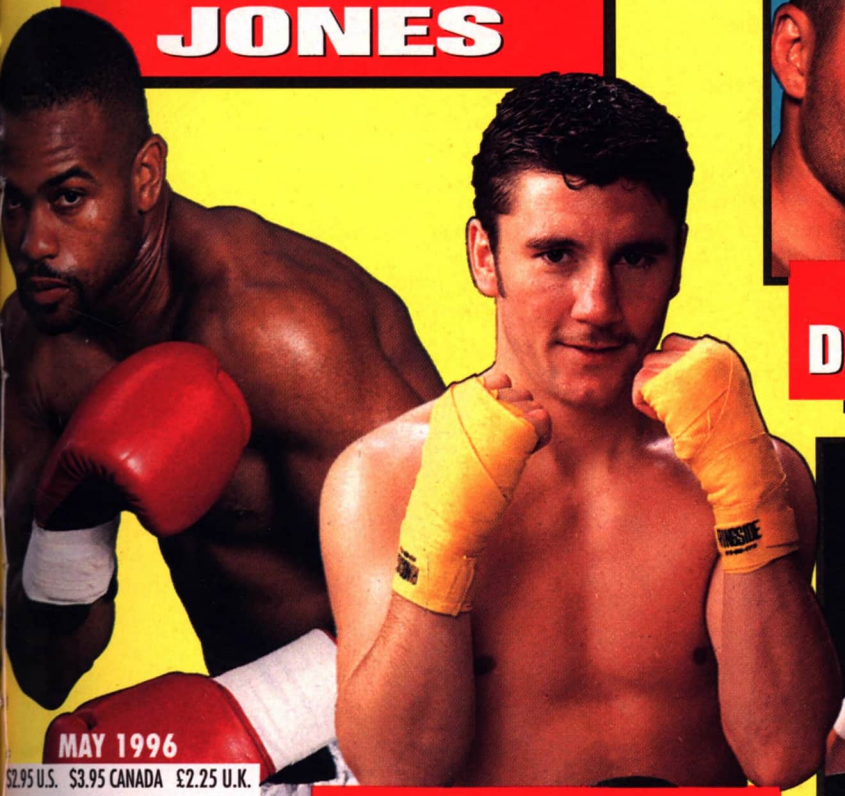

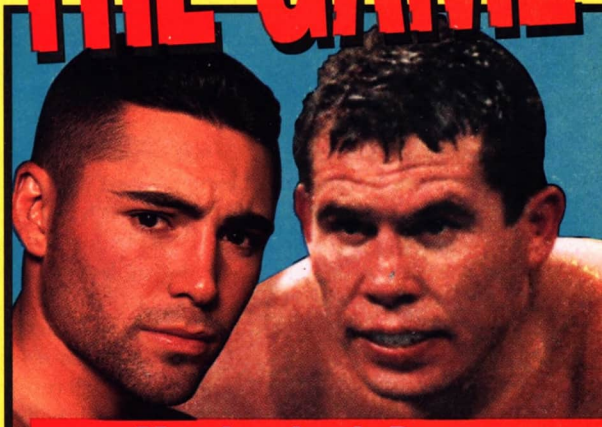

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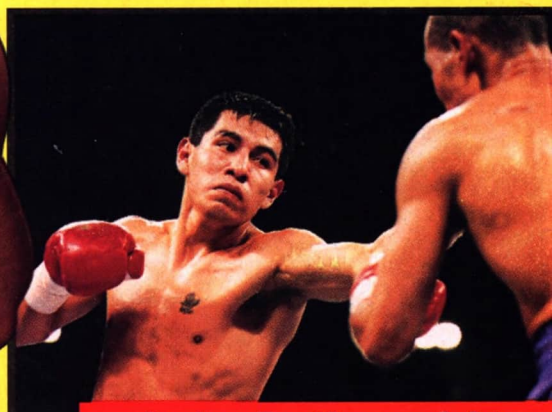

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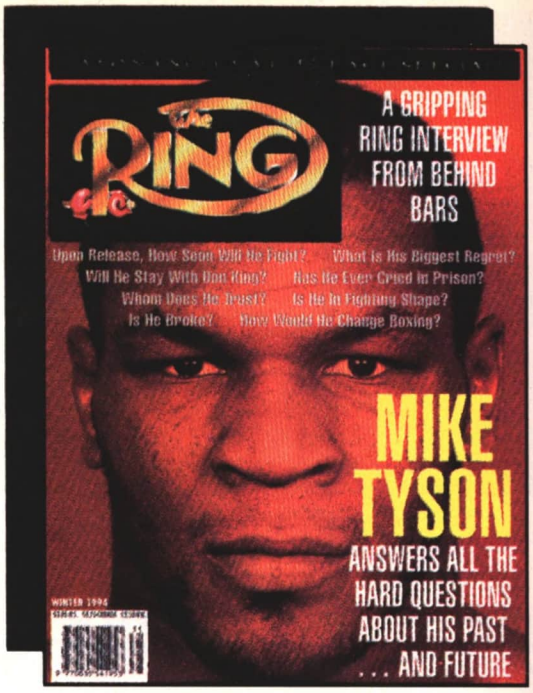

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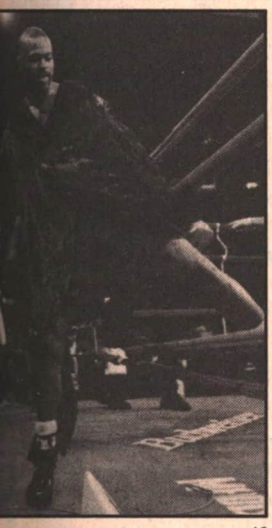

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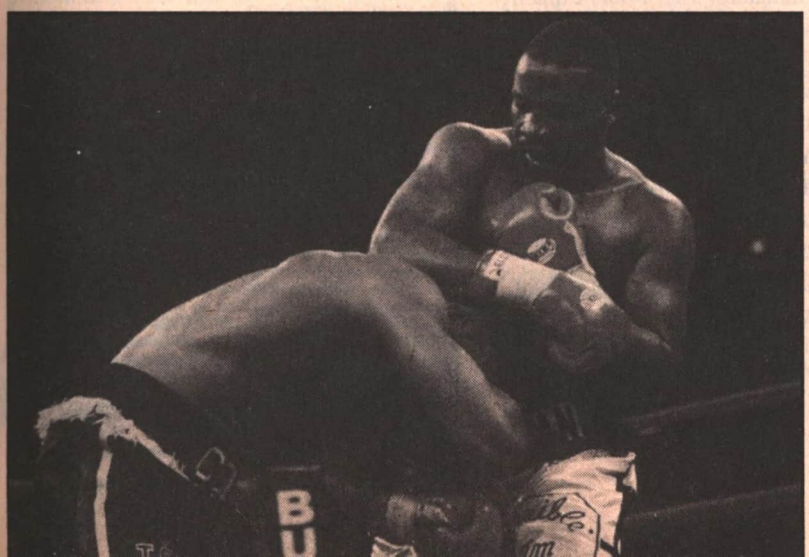

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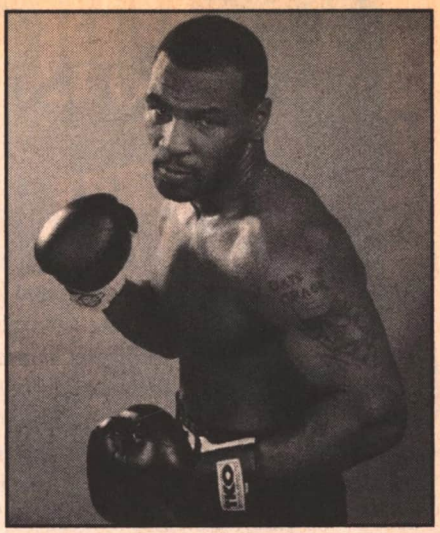

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RINGSIDE

One of the things that makes boxing so difficult to understand and appreciate is the connection between violence and courage. Without one, you can't have the other. But as every referee knows, there's a thin line between a give-and-take crowd-pleaser and unnecessary and excessive punishment. And as Jimmy Garcia reminded us, there's sometimes no line at all between refusing to surrender and risking your life.

With that said, I've been wondering whatever happened to valor. When we were kids, Hollywood anesthetized us to the pain of the ring. Hell, against Apollo Creed, Rocky Balboa went the distance with a face that looked like it had spent three rounds in a high-speed blender. But take the makeup and scripts away and our real-life heroes were no less brave. Henry Armstrong swallowed his own blood so his first fight with Lou Ambers wouldn't be stopped. Rocky Marciano scored a desperation kayo after Ezzard Charles hideously split the tip of his nose. And Muhammad Ali boxed for 11 rounds against Ken Norton with a broken jaw.

Then, in 1980, Roberto Duran quit against Sugar Ray Leonard and still got paid, which means he got away with it. Boxing hasn't been the same since. Lately, it's gotten ridiculous, with too many fighters seeking to take the easy way out.

There was something noble about the way Gabe Ruelas insisted on getting punched out, and not quitting, against Azumah Nelson. And while I had no problem with the second-round stoppage of the Roy Jones-Merqui Sosa fight, I found the loser's reaction ("The hardest thing about fighting Jones," a frustrated Sosa said, "is the referee") to be admirable.

But Ruelas and Sosa have been the exceptions. Julio Cesar Chavez, always thought to be the ultimate warrior, didn't have the courage to admit he lost to Pernell Whitaker. Then, after being cut in his second fight with Frankie Randall, he decided he wouldn't fight anymore. Some warrior.

I suppose we'll never know whether Luis Santana was really acting or not in his first bout vs. Terry Norris. But if he wasn't seriously hurt after being fouled, and my guess is that he wasn't, how much courage did it take for him to lie flat on the canvas and play dead?

Has Santana, like Elvis, inspired a school of imitators? That would explain Juan Coggi's behavior at the end of his second bout with the aforementioned Randall. What a glorious way to regain a title.

I didn't have as much of a problem with Genaro Hernandez' surrender vs. Oscar De La Hoya. After suffering a badly broken nose, Hernandez pulled his own plug. At least his action wasn't devious. And unlike Chavez, Santana, and Coggi, he didn't benefit from it. On the other hand, I'd like to think there are a lot of champions who would have fought on despite the excruciating pain. Let's not forget, it's heart and determination we look for in our fighters, not logic.

Then again, who am I to talk? Vinny Vecchione quit for his fighter, Peter McNeeley, and I voted for him as Manager of the Year.

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief

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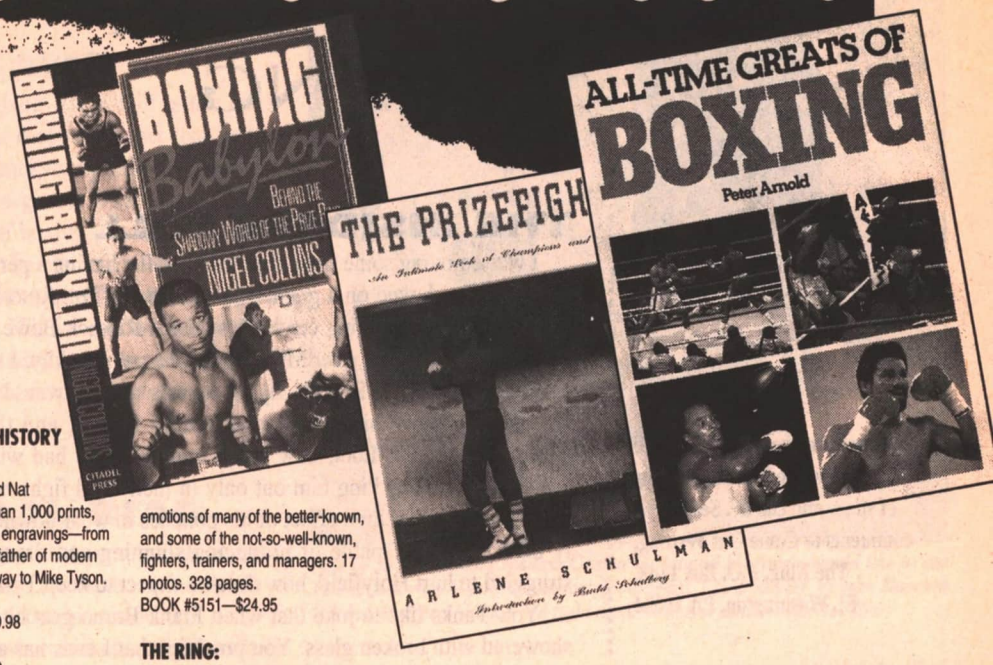

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THE INSIDERS POLL

I was enjoying some fresh fruit salad whilst having a perusal through your Winter 1995 edition, and I almost choked on a grape when I read in "THE RING Poll: Boxing Insiders Have Their Say" that 74 percent of boxing cerebrals selected Riddick Bowe as the best big man in boxing, and 67 percent favored Bowe over Mike Tyson. To put it mildly, I was flabbergasted.

A breakdown of Bowe's fights reveals that he would lose to Tyson, and probably Lennox Lewis, too. Bowe has fought one worthy fighter, and that was a blown-up cruiserweight in Evander Holyfield. Look how much trouble Bowe had with the smaller man, struggling to hurt Holyfield, and knocking him out only in their third fight, when "The Real Deal" was shot. Bowe relies on the cumulative effect of his punches to wear down his opponents. He is not a devastatingly hard puncher capable of producing stunning and dramatic one-punch kayos. If he severely struggled to hurt Holyfield, how does he expect to keep Tyson at bay?

You Yanks like to joke that when Frank Bruno gets hit on the chin, everyone at ringside gets showered with broken glass. You proclaim that Lewis has a suspect chin just because a legitimate heavyweight puncher, Oliver McCall, caught him with a murderous right hand that was tantamount to a thunderbolt delivered by Zeus. Hence, if a cruiserweight can all but knock out Bowe, we must concur that "Big Daddy" has a glass chin, too.

I found your poll very interesting and revealing, but as Oscar Wilde once said, "There are lies, damn lies, and statistics."

ANTHONY FALCE
London, England

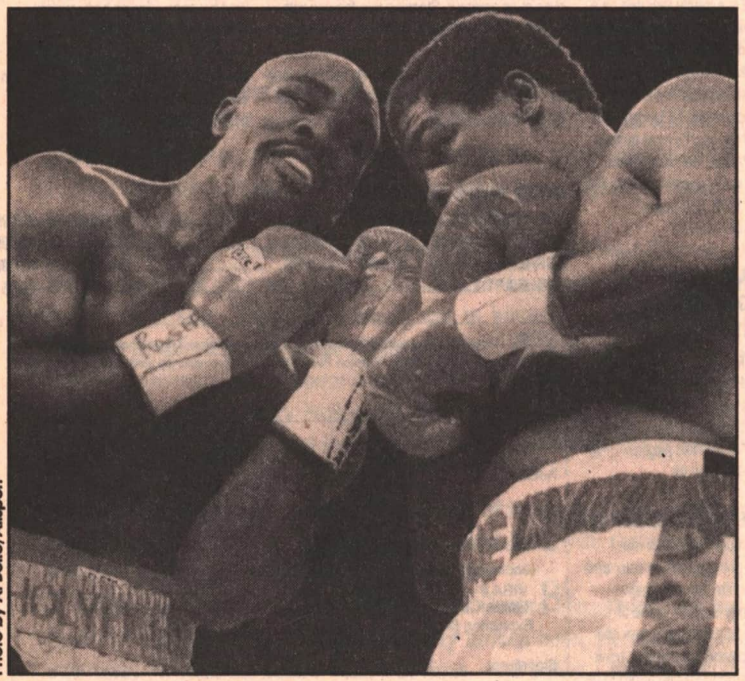


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

In their rubber match, Evander Holyfield exposed some of Riddick Bowe's defensive weaknesses. Would Bowe be able to survive the considerable attack of Mike Tyson?

I was surprised that so many of the insiders you polled thought so little of today's heavyweights, at least in comparison to the Ali-Frazier-Foreman era. My guess is that most of those polled are in the same age bracket as Ali and cast, and they look back at "the good old days" with rose-colored glasses.

If you ask me, Bowe, Tyson, Holyfield, and Lewis could easily hold their own. As a matter of fact, I like the chances of Bowe and Tyson against any of the greats from the '70s. When comparing eras, one should keep in mind that in most sports, today's top athletes have the benefit of state-of-the-art equipment, facilities, and training techniques. This generally translates to superior skills and abilities. Look at track & field, weightlifting, football, etc. The results cannot be disputed. Boxing is not an exception.

SCOTT AARON
Fremont, CA

THREE BELTS, NO CHAMPS

When I take a look at the heavyweight division, two things come to mind: three belts and no champions. Let's face it, Frank Bruno and Bruce Seldon don't come close to being the best in their division. Neither deserved a title shot, much less the title. And the IBF champion, Frans Botha, shouldn't be rated

in the top 50. If there are going to be three champions, they should be Riddick Bowe, Mike Tyson, and Lennox Lewis. With Bowe's skills, I don't see anyone ever coming close to beating him again.

KEN McCUSKER
Vancouver, British Columbia

A HILL OF A CHAMP

It seems light heavyweight champion Virgil Hill is too often criticized and neglected by the media despite the fact that he has been a marvel of consistency and is racking up title defenses at a record pace. If Bob Foster wants to go on criticizing Hill, he should be advised that the problems of boxing (fractured titles, the mediocre level of competition) cannot be blamed on Hill.

As a general rule, former champions appreciate and respect the dignity that comes with wearing a belt. Hill has conducted himself in an exemplary manner and has concentrated solely on defending the title. Ironically, that's just what Foster did during his own reign.

MIKE REVELES
San Diego, CA

A GEOGRAPHICAL BIAS

A deeply cynical man might suggest that your ratings and the preferences of the U.S. boxing media are based not only on a boxer's achievement and potential, but also his residence.

Consider the relative success of two world-class fighters from the U.K., namely Prince Naseem Hamed (British-based) and Wayne McCullough (U.S.-based). It has become quite apparent that Hamed is in a different class to McCullough. Hamed has superior boxing skills, speed, punching power, and defense, and an uncanny ability to work out an opponent's Achilles heel within a round or two. Furthermore, he packages all his skills in such a way as to turn it into a real show for the crowd.

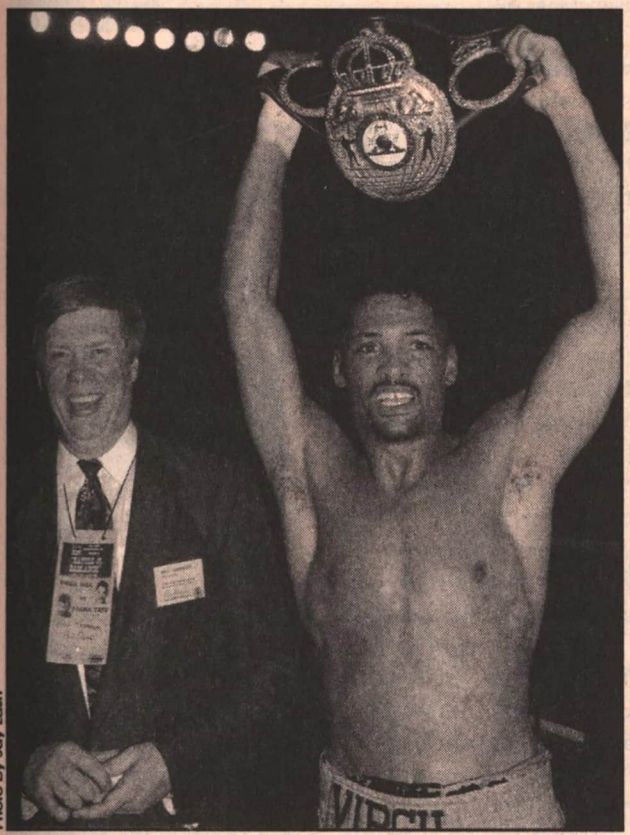
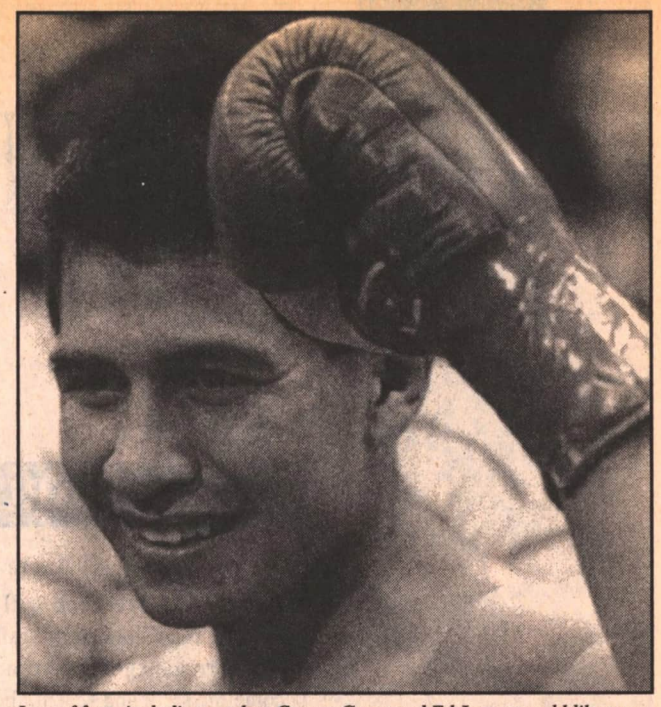


Photo by Jay Lash

WBA light heavyweight champion Virgil Hill, with manager Bill Sorenson, continues to stockpile title defenses. It's not Hill's fault, says reader Mike Reveles, that the 175-pound division hasn't provided adequate competition.



Lots of fans, including readers Caesar Grant and Ed Jones, would like to see Marco Antonio Barrera silence flamboyant 122-pounder Prince Naseem Hamed. Barrera-Hamed is a fight on almost everyone's must-see list.

McCullough is an excellent pressure fighter who throws numerous punches and possesses the heart of a lion. Compared to "Naz," however, he is sadly sloppy seconds. Yet within the U.S., McCullough is talked of as being a real star, whereas Naz appears to be an unknown quantity. Call me a little warped, but if Naz was to be based in the U.S., or if it was suddenly discovered he was an American citizen, the U.S. media would be talking about him as the next superstar of the game.

You might point out that Hamed hasn't fought in the States, so how can Americans judge him? But remember, true experts in any field do not hide behind the deadliest of sins, ignorance. If you are true experts, you'll step out of your insular world and appreciate the incomparable skills of the Prince.

MARK DAVENPORT
Surrey, England

BARRERA'S THE ONE

We are impressed out of our skin with Marco Antonio Barrera, who is the greatest fighter, pound-for-pound, in the world. Mike Tyson used to hold that distinction, but he will have to reinstate himself after his long layoff.

The greatest thing Barrera could do is beat down that arrogant, posturing, prancing, conceited, self-styled Prince Naseem Hamed into the dirt. We hope Barrera will meet him in due course and humble him forever.

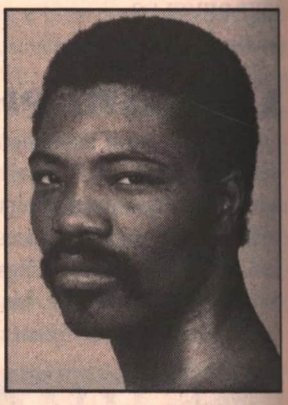
CAESAR GRANT
ED JONES
London, England ■

ROUND ONE

MARCHING INTO THE HALL

The International Boxing Hall of Fame's Induction & Championship Weekend will he held on June 6, 7, and 8 in Canastota, New York. A roll call of the 13 inductees:

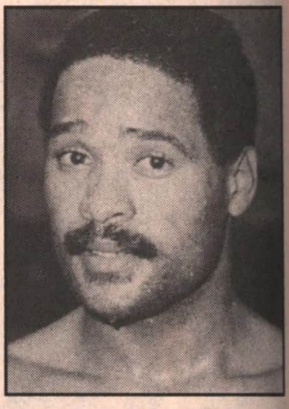
Modern Category: Aaron Pryor and **Wilfred Benitez** will become the sixth and seventh boxers to enter the Hall of Fame on their first year of eligibility. (The others were Alexis Arguello, Marvin Hagler, Carlos Zarate, Michael Spinks, and Wilfredo Gomez.) "The Hawk" was dominant as WBA junior welterweight champion in the early-'80s, and triple-crown titlist Benitez, who in 1976 became the youngest world champion in history (age 17), will become the youngest Hall of Famer (age 37).



Aaron Pryor

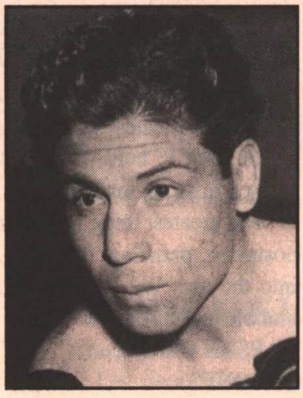
Joe Brown

Joe Brown won the lightweight title in 1956, and made 11 successful defenses, and the late **Manuel Ortiz** won the bantamweight crown in 1942, and made a division-record 23 successful defenses over two reigns.



Wilfred Benitez

Old-Timer Category: Former world champions **Tommy Burns** (heavyweight), **Jack Delaney** (light heavyweight), **Fidel LaBarba** (flyweight), and **Kid Williams** (bantamweight), and former contender **Young Stribling** (light heavyweight and heavyweight).



Manuel Ortiz

Pioneer Category: Bare-knuckle American heavyweight champion **John Morrissey**.

Non-Participant Category: Trainer and manager **William Muldoon**, who worked with John L. Sullivan, sportswriter **Dan Parker**, and trainer and manager **Emanuel Steward**, who developed Thomas Hearns, among several other champions, built the Kronk gym into a boxing powerhouse, and currently works with former titlists Lennox Lewis and Jeff Fenech.

Those interested in details regarding Induction Weekend should contact the International Boxing Hall of Fame at 1 Hall of Fame Drive, Canastota, New York 13032.

ERNIE MAGDALENO, 1962-1995

Light heavyweight contender Ernie Magdaleno, 33, was killed on New Year's Eve after a theft suspect ran a red light during a high-speed police chase and slammed into the fighter's Jeep Cherokee in Huntington Beach, California.

Magdaleno was thrown from the Jeep, and his head struck the sidewalk, instantly killing him. His wife and two children escaped with minor injuries.

Magdaleno, 22-1-1, was ranked in the top 10 by the IBF and WBA. He won the USBA title by stopping Tim Hillie in April 1993, and in his lone try at a world title, he was halted in nine rounds by IBF champion Henry Maske in March 1994.

Only three days before his death, Magdaleno scored a 10-round decision over Roman Santos on a card at the Marriott Hotel in Irvine, California. "Ernie sold 150 tickets," said Roy Englebrecht, who promoted the show. "We gave him a suite, which we don't usually do, and after the fight he celebrated with champagne with about 100 people. His family and friends got to see him [for the last time] in a glorious, winning way."

Englebrecht enjoyed a long association with Magdaleno, who in 1989 turned pro on one of the promoter's monthly cards at the Marriott. "A world short of good role models, good husbands, and good fathers," he said, "is even shorter because of Ernie's death."

–Steve Farhood

Magdaleno: A rugged light heavyweight

LET'S GET READY TO STUMBLE

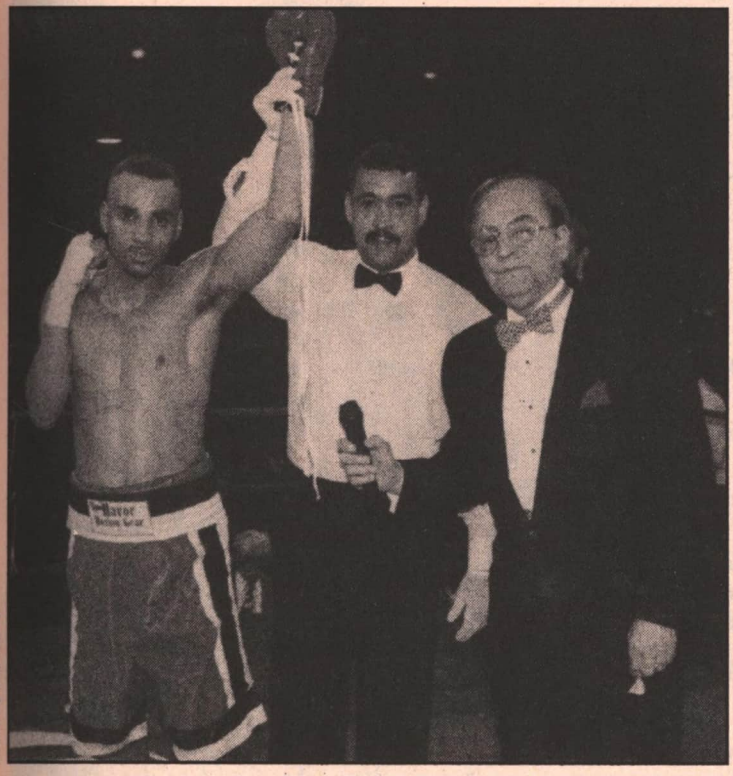


Photo by Roy Bailey

Luis Rosado, referee Wayne Hedgpeth, and Jerry D'Angella

If you ask, you never know what you might get. Late last year, New Jersey's Jerry D'Angella, a fight fan and a high-roller at Bally's Grand in Atlantic City, was attending a fight card at the Convention Center when he spotted Joe Jimenez, the hotel's executive vice president of marketing. "I was watching the ring announcer," recalled D'Angella, "and I said to myself, *I'd like to do that.* I told Joe, and he said if I came with a tuxedo on January 13, I could work a fight. That was it: The shortest job interview in history—two sentences."

There were no objections from co-promoters Cedric Kushner and New Contenders, so when welterweights Luis Rosado and Dennis Burley climbed through the ropes for their scheduled six-rounder, so did D'Angella—who promptly tripped and fell to the canvas. After that most unBufferlike start, he settled down, and with a voice that is best described as early-W.C. Fields, proceeded to do his job.

"I didn't have any coaching," he said, "but I always knew I had the voice."

D'Angella said Bally's asked him back for another undercard fight in February. Let's hope his next fantasy isn't three rounds with Roy Jones.

–Steve Farhood

BAD CHEMISTRY

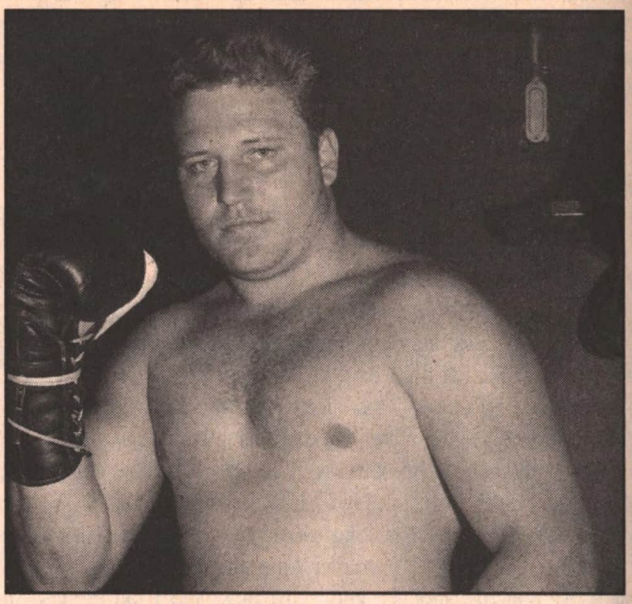
Don't pencil in South Africa's Frans Botha as the IBF heavyweight champion just quite yet. Immediately after winning the vacant title by scoring a disputed decision over Axel Schulz in Stuttgart, Germany, Botha tested positive for anabolic steroids.

"I have done nothing wrong because I have not taken any anabolic steroids," said Botha. "That test was done by a German laboratory. The IBF is in America, that's the only thing that counts."

The test was conducted twice with the same sample.

Said German boxing official Alois Teuber, "It wasn't just a question of finding traces, we found large quantities. The substance was Nandrolone. Its effect depends on whether it is taken over the long or short term. If it is taken over the long term, it aids muscle development and can enhance strength and performance."

If Botha is stripped, it is anticipated that Germany's Schulz will meet either Oliver McCall or Michael Moorer for the vacant title.



Was Botha on steroids?

BAD LUCK BELT

On January 13 in Miami, Juan Coggi received a gift victory over Frankie Randall for the WBA junior welterweight championship. He also received something it took Randall 15 months to get: a championship belt. As amazing as it might seem, Randall wasn't awarded a belt by the WBA until the weigh-in for the Coggi rematch. And he won the title in *September 1994!*

THE RING, anxious to photograph Randall with the belt, telephoned "The Surgeon" several times last year. "They give it to you yet?" we'd ask. "Nope," he'd answer. "No belt yet." Nobody, it seems, was looking out for Randall. Of course, that's been the story of his career ever since he upset Julio Cesar Chavez more than two years ago.

On two occasions, and most recently just before Randall lost to Coggi, we asked Jim Binns, a WBA official based in Philadelphia, about the oversight. The first time he said he'd take care of it. The second time he said, "We gave him a belt, didn't we?"

Though it never came off, we scheduled a photo shoot with Randall a couple of days before the Coggi fight. Don King Productions, Randall's promoter, was going to borrow the belt of either cruiserweight Nate Miller or junior flyweight Hi Yong Choi, a pair of WBA champions fighting on the card, and lend it to Randall.

Nice way to treat a champ.

–Steve Farhood

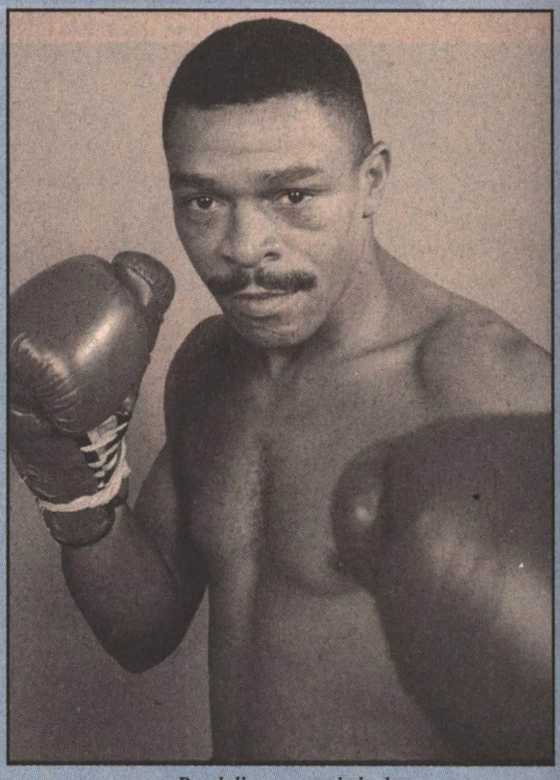


Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

Randall never got belted

THE 10 OPPONENTS WHO WOULD BRING OUT THE BEST IN ROY JONES

10. The Dirty Dozen: Lee Marvin and Telly Savalas would be no problem, but Jones might be fatigued by the time he gets to Jim Brown.

9. The Crips and The Bloods: On the streets of South Central, it's pick-'em, but in a boxing ring, Jones is 8-5.

8. The bouncers from Planet Hollywood: Might as well bring on Arnold, Sly, and Bruce, and their stuntmen, too. Sounds like a Bob Arum promotion, doesn't it?

7. The guys in the bow ties at Mike Tyson's press conferences: "Pay me and I'll perform," says Jones. If this fight is held on St. Patrick's Day, it'll be his Million-Dollar March.

6. The offensive line of the Dallas Cowboys: Emmitt Smith, Jones' neighbor in Pensacola, knows their glaring weakness: the dreaded Twinkies Blitz.

5. The 1st Armored Division of the U.S. Army: After flooring Merqui Sosa, you think Jones is gonna be intimidated by a couple of tiny little green tanks?

4. Bond. James Bond: Sorry, but homey don't do no secret agent men.

3. New York City subway commuters during summer rush hour: Lots of sticking, but nowhere to move.

2. The stars of *Waiting To Exhale*: With Whitney Houston and Angela Bassett on the attack, count on Jones to let his guard down.

1. Butterbean: At the rules meeting, the athletic commission decides belly-butting is legal, as long as contact is made above the waist.

THE PUNCHLINES

"How did it feel to be a light heavyweight? It felt light and it felt heavy."
–Roy Jones following his second-round stoppage of Merqui Sosa

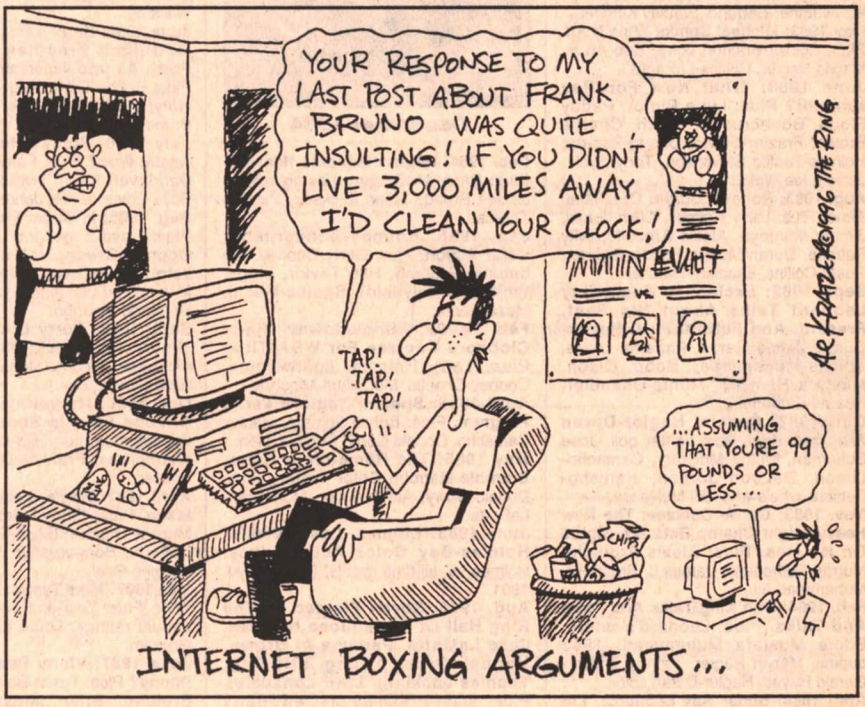
"We may cut off his last name and go with just Courage. I think [his last name] means lasagna in South African."
–Trainer Lou Duva on his South African heavyweight hopeful, Courage Tshabalala

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

In Albany, New York, heavyweight prospect **Jo-el Scott** pleaded not guilty to rape and assault charges, stemming from alleged sexual encounters with two underage girls ... On Christmas Eve in Levallois, France, Cameroon-born former European cruiserweight champion **Norbert Ekassi**, 29, bled to death after putting his hand through a glass window during a domestic dispute ... IBF super middleweight champion **Roy Jones**, who has expressed a desire to play professional basketball, has joined the Continental Basketball Association's Florida Beachdogs as a conditioning coach. Jones, it was reported, might also replace an injured player in the lineup. The CBA season ends March 24 ... On January 10, veteran cornerman **Al Silvani**, 85, died in Studio City, California, after a long battle with cancer. Silvani worked with, among others, **Jake LaMotta**, **Rocky Graziano**, **Nino Benvenuti**, and **Alexis Arguello**. He also appeared in three *Rocky* films, worked as an adviser on several other movies, and served as a bodyguard for **Frank Sinatra.**

Al Silvani (far left) in Rocky III

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



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Oct. 1981: Holmes-Cooney: Is It Is Or Is It Ain't? Plus: Best Fighter, hard-hitting heavyweights, who's who in each division, Donald Curry, Spinks-Muhammad, Chandler-Solis, Snipes-Coetzee, boxing on TV, Rocky Graziano, Sugar Ray Leonard.

Feb. 1982: Special Holmes-Cooney Program Section. Plus: Irish boxers, Sean O'Grady, Ali, Pedroza-Ballas, Braxton-Muhammad, Pedroza-Sibaca, Sanchez-Cowdell, Best of The Ring Anthology.

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Jan. 1983: Pryor-Arguello: Fight Of The Year. Plus: Frank "Animal" Fletcher, Dwight Braxton-Michael Spinks preview, ring deaths, Muhammad Ali.

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Sept. 1983: Exclusive: Sugar Ray Leonard Talks About His Past, Present, And Future. Plus: Hagler-Duran, Jaime Garza, Panama Lewis, Spinks-Muhammad, Bobo Olson, Mustafa Hamsho, Muniz-Chandler, Hearns-Sutherland.

Oct. 1983: Special Hagler-Duran Program. Plus: Best fighter poll, Jose Sulaiman, Milton McCrory, Camacho-Limon, DeLeon-Gordon, Hamsho-Benitez, who's who, Bill McNeese.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

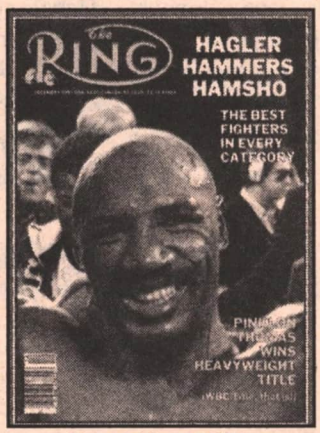
April 1984: Sugar Ray Leonard: "I'm Gonna Be Better Than Ever!" Plus: Ring's ratings of 8,000 fighters, Henry Armstrong, Don Lee, Koji Kobayashi, Mancini-Chacon (color).

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comeback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Aug. 1984: Olympic Special: Mark Breland Leads A Strong Squad. Plus: Leonard-Howard, Davila-Sanchez, Bonecrusher-Bruno, Bramble-Mancini, Hatcher-Bumphus, Garza-Orozco.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.



December 1984

Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, boxing's best, James Broad, Julian Jackson, Pinklon Thomas.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior? Plus: Truth Williams, Tyrell Biggs, Greg Richardson, Julio Cesar Chavez, Paul-Blake, Witherspoon-Bonecrusher, Berbick-Bey, Pinklon Thomas.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Jeff Fenech, Berbick-Green, John E. Garcia, Dwight Muhammad Qawi, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

Feb. 1986: Mike Tyson: The Legacy Of Cus D'Amato. Plus: Rocky IV, Curry-McCrory, Teddy Mann, Kenny Lane.

March 1986 (Awards Issue): Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Ring's Annual Awards, Evander Holyfield, Williamson-Muhammad, Camacho-Roach, 1985 boxing diary.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Oct. 1986: Marvelous Marvin: Can Anyone Fill His Shoes? Plus: Tim Witherspoon, Holyfield-Qawi, Panama's champions, Frankie Duarte, Tyson-Frazier.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

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July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

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Oct. 1987: Special Hall Of Fame Issue: All Elected Unanimously! Plus: Hall of Fame directory, Spinks-Cooney, Pazienza-Haugen II, Aaron Pryor.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple Crown. Plus: McCallum-Curry, Carlos Monzon interview, triple champions, Orlin & Terry Norris, Ramirez-Alli, Fenech-Richardson, Matthew Hilton.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn-Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History." Plus: Rocky Lockridge & Roger Mayweather, Panama, Tony Burton, Chavez-Rosario, Gervacio-Espinoza, Vaca-Honeyghan.

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Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

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March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar

Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

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Feb. 1990: Mike Tyson: Riddick Bowe & Ray Mercer Take Aim. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Chuck Wepner, Antonio Esparragoza, Roman-Laciar.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

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Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler-Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Dec. 1990: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Douglas-Holyfield preview, Julio Cesar Chavez, Joe Grim, Whitaker-Nazario, Rosi-Van Horn, Benny Leonard, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ, But ... Plus: Dempsey-Firpo, Charles Murray, Khaosai Galaxy, Nunn-Curry, Henry Armstrong, Sonny Liston (color).

May 1991: All-Frazier I: 20 Years Late, Still The Fight Of The Century (color). Plus: fighting at home, Mark McPherson, George Costner, Rolando Pascua, Tony Canzoneri.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Foreman-Holyfield preview, Norris-Leonard, David Kamau, Freddie Steele, Bennie Briscoe, Leonard's career (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be...But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

Aug. 1991: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight ... And The World A Thrill (color). Plus: Making weight, Harry Greb, Kevin Kelley, Louis-Conn I, Simon Brown-Blocker, Chavez-Duplessis, Sugar Ray Robinson.

Oct. 1991: A Hit Again-How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, rating the 44 world champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

Jan. 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Aug. 1992: Holyfield-Holmes Prefight. Holmes: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Iran Barkley, Herbie Hide, George Foreman, Tex Cobb, Carnival of Champions, Harry Greb, Haugen-Mancini, Oscar De La Hoya, Gene Tunney (color).

Sept. 1992: Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Face These Guys? Plus: Bobby Czyz, Genaro Hernandez, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbons, Sugar Ray Leonard's career, Sugar Ray Robinson (color).

Oct. 1992: The Supreme Dream: The Heavyweight Hopes Of The Heavyweight Hopefuls. Plus: Kevin Kelley, All-Time Top 10: South Africa, Meldrick Taylor, Sharmba Mitchell, Bob Foster, Eder Jofre, Max Baer (color).

Feb. 1993: America's Tribute To The Brown Bomber: Joe Louis. Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior Jones, Roger Mayweather, Chicago boxing, Orlando Zulueta, Jose Napoles (color).

March 1993: From Question Man To Answer Man: Riddick Bowe Leaves No Doubts. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Lopez-Gamache, Frank Bruno, Rocky Kansas, Frank Fletcher, Crisanto Espana, Bowe-Lewis (color).

April 1993: Riddick Bowe: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Morris East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, All-Time Top 10: Argentina, Fighters of the Year (color).

June 1993: Riddick Bowe: The Man, By LeRoy Nieman. Plus: All-Time Top 10: Ireland, Paul Hodkinson, Ray Mercer, Toney-Barkley, Kennedy McKinney, LeRoy Nieman (color).

Aug. 1993: A Ring Exclusive: Julio Cesar Chavez Speaks Out. Plus: Bobby Czyz, 10 hardest punchers, Rafael Ruelas, Carmen Basilio, closing of the Fifth Street Gym, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

Oct. 1993: Tommy Morrison: Good Enough To Beat Big George, But Will He Win The Heavyweight Title? Plus: Riddick Bowe, Mike Capriano, Billy Conn-Joe Louis, All-Time Top 10: Puerto Rico, Charles Murray.

Dec. 1993: What If Mike Tyson Had Never Gone To Jail? Plus: Freddie Pendleton, Michael Moorer & Tommy Morrison, Willie Pep, Ed Dunkhorst, All-Time Top 10: Cuba, Tyson-Spinks (color).

Jan. 1994: Was Pernell Whitaker Robbed In San Antonio? Plus: Azumah Nelson, Willis Britt, State of the Game.

Feb. 1994: The British Are Coming! Does America Have Anything To Worry About? Plus: Felix Trinidad, Junior Jones, fight clubs (part I), Toney-Hearns.

March 1994: Evander Holyfield's Formula For Success—Obsession + Guts = Fulfillment. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Michael Bentt, Kronk, boxing novels, All-Time Top 10: Wales, fight clubs (part II).

April 1994: Michael Carbajal: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Brown-Norris, Kevin Kelley, Ceferino Garcia, Oscar De La Hoya, Tunney Hunsaker, Spinks-Foster.

May 1994 (92-Page Special) Division-By-Division: The Greatest Fighters Of All-Time. Plus: Virgil Hill & Orlando Canizales, Kostya Tszyu, James Toney, What If ... Dempsey vs. Wills.

June 1994: Moorer-Holyfield: Slugfest Or Stinker? Plus: Terry Norris, Paul Pender, Randall-Chavez I, Gonzales-Carbajal II, kickboxing.

July 1994: "I Wanna Be Like Sugar Ray": Oscar De La Hoya Becomes A Prime-Time Player. Plus: Nigel Benn, Gianfranco Rosi, Sullivan-McCaffrey, Donald-Williams, 10 likely upsets, All-Time Top 10: England.

Aug. 1994: Bowe's Back! Determined To Do It Again. Plus: Eric Griffin, Pernell Whitaker, Ray Mercer, Roger Donoghue, State of the Game (midterm report), All-Time Top 10: The Philippines.

Sept. 1994 (92-Page Special): How Michael Moorer Defeated Evander Holyfield, By Teddy Atlas! Plus: Chavez-Randall II, Lennox Lewis, Mando Ramos, all-time greatest cards, What If ... Duran vs. Arguello, All-Time Top 10: Scotland.

Oct. 1994: Rating The Champs: Whitaker & Toney Lead The Field ... But Roy Jones Is Closing Fast. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Meldrick Taylor, Rafael Ruelas, Curtis Cokes.

Nov. 1994: With Lewis Fighting Bowe ... Is Michael Moorer's Career Off-Target? Plus: Wayne McCullough, Hall of Fame, Alejandro Lavorante, Rocky Marciano, Paz-Duran, Injuries (part I), What If ... Pedroza vs. Sanchez.

Dec. 1994: Fighting-Mad! James Toney Just Wants To Beat People Up. Plus: Duran & Robinson, Don King, Mike McCallum, Injuries (part II), Tom Molineaux.

Winter 1994 (92-Page Special): Mike Tyson: An Exclusive Interview From Behind Bars. Plus: Best of the last 100 years, Jones-Toney preview, Injuries (part III), Miguel Angel Gonzalez, Jack Sharkey, What If ... Galindez-Conteh.

Jan. 1995: A Puncher's Dream: Oliver McCall Upsets Boxing's Balance Of Power. Plus: Ruelas brothers, Quincy Taylor, "Unfinished Business," Dave Maier, All-Time Top 10: Canada.

Feb. 1995: Return To Greatness? Mike Tyson Doesn't Know His Future ... But The Ring Does! Plus: Pernell Whitaker, Lennox Lewis, Mark Johnson, Orlando Canizales, Tom Johnson, Irving Cohen.

March 1995 (92-Page Special): Through The Years: The Incredible Career(s) Of George Foreman. Plus: Jones-Toney, Ali in China, Chiquita-Carbajal III, Hank Kaplan.

April 1995: Roy Jones—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Ex-champs Moorer, Holyfield, Lewis, & Bowe, Chavez-Lopez & Castro-Jackson, Olzubek-Gamache, What If ... Chandler-Pintor.

May 1995: The State Of The Game. Plus: Olzubek & Arbachakov, Gonzalez-Kelley, Pazienza-Duran II, All-Time Top 10: France.

☐ Apr/80	☐ Oct/84	☐ Sep/86	☐ Oct/88	☐ May/91	☐ Jan/94
	☐ Dec/84	☐ Oct/86	☐ Nov/88	☐ Jun/91	☐ Feb/94
☐ Aug/81	**All 7 $28**	**All 10 $37**	**All 10 $37**	☐ Jul/91	☐ Mar/94
☐ Oct/81				☐ Aug/91	☐ Apr/94
	☐ Jan/85	☐ Apr/87	☐ Jan/89	☐ Oct/91	☐ May/94
☐ Feb/82	☐ Feb/85	☐ May/87	☐ Feb/89	☐ Dec/91	☐ Jun/94
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	☐ May/85	☐ Jul/87	☐ May/89		☐ Aug/94
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☐ May/83	☐ Oct/85	☐ Nov/87	☐ Feb/90	☐ Sep/92	☐ Dec/94
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THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended February 1, 1996

Marcelo Dominguez
Cruiserweight

Carl Daniels
Junior Middleweight

Philip Holiday
Lightweight

John-John Molina
Lightweight

Jeff Fenech
Junior Lightweight

Junior Jones
Junior Featherweight

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **RIDDICK BOWE** Fort Washington, MD *38-1*
2. **LENNOX LEWIS** England *28-1*
3. **MIKE TYSON** Southington, OH *43-1*
4. **MICHAEL MOORER** Detroit, MI *36-1*
5. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** Atlanta, GA *32-3*
6. **BRUCE SELDON** Atlantic City, NJ *33-3 (WBA Champ)*
7. **FRANK BRUNO** England *41-4 (WBC Champ)*
8. **GEORGE FOREMAN** Houston, TX *74-4*
9. **ALEXANDR ZOLKIN** Westerville, OH *24-2*
10. **TIM WITHERSPOON** Philadelphia, PA *44-4*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 190 pounds

1. **NATE MILLER** Philadelphia, PA *26-4 (WBA Champ)*
2. **AL COLE** Spring Valley, NY *27-2 (IBF Champ)*
3. **ADOLPHO WASHINGTON** Lexington, KY *24-3-2*
4. **ANACLET WAMBA** France *45-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
5. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ** Argentina *19-1-1 (WBC Interim Champ)*
6. **SERGEI KOBOZEV** Brooklyn, NY *22-1*
7. **JAMES TONEY** Ann Arbor, MI *49-2-2*
8. **TORSTEN MAY** Germany *11-0*
9. **THOMAS HEARNS** Detroit, MI *55-4-1*
10. **KENNY KEENE** Emmett, ID *32-1*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **HENRY MASKE** Germany *27-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **VIRGIL HILL** Bismarck, ND *41-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **FABRICE TIOZZO** France *33-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **MONTELL GRIFFIN** Chicago, IL *20-0*
5. **MERQUI SOSA** New York, NY *26-5-2*
6. **MIKE McCALLUM** Brooklyn, NY *48-3-1*
7. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** Germany *29-0*
8. **FRANK TATE** Houston, TX *35-4*
9. **WILLIAM GUTHRIE** Philadelphia, PA *19-0*
10. **LOUIS DEL VALLE** Bronx, NY *22-0*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** Pensacola, FL *31-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **NIGEL BENN** England *42-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **STEVE COLLINS** Ireland *31-3*
4. **FRANK LILES** N. Hollywood, CA *28-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **TIM LITTLES** Flint, MI *26-1*
6. **VINNY PAZIENZA** Cranston, RI *40-6*
7. **BRYANT BRANNON** Trenton, NJ *16-0*
8. **HENRY WHARTON** England *23-2-1*
9. **MICHAEL NUNN** Davenport, IA *48-3*
10. **RAY CLOSE** N. Ireland *21-3-1*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **QUINCY TAYLOR** Dallas, TX *26-3 (WBC Champ)*
2. **BERNARD HOPKINS** Philadelphia, PA *28-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **SHINJI TAKEHARA** Japan *24-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **JORGE CASTRO** Argentina *98-5-2*
5. **JOHN DAVID JACKSON** Seattle, WA *34-1*
6. **REGGIE JOHNSON** Houston, TX *35-5-1*
7. **JOE LIPSEY** Lansing, MI *25-0*
8. **DANA ROSENBLATT** Malden, MA *26-0*
9. **LONNIE BRADLEY** New York, NY *22-0*
10. **JULIAN JACKSON** Virgin Islands *51-4*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Mission Valley, CA *42-6 (WBC/IBF Champ)*
2. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ**
   Argentina *56-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **BRONCO McKART**
   Monroe, MI *27-1*
4. **CARL DANIELS**
   St. Louis, MO *34-2*
5. **VINCENT PETTWAY**
   Baltimore, MD *38-5-1*
6. **YORI BOY CAMPAS**
   Mexico *63-1*
7. **ANDREW COUNCIL**
   Lanham, MD *24-3-3*
8. **LAURENT BOUDOUANI**
   France *30-2*
9. **WINKY WRIGHT**
   St. Petersburg, FL *33-1*
10. **KEITH HOLMES**
    Washington, D.C. *27-1*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Norfolk, VA *37-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico *27-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **IKE QUARTEY**
   Ghana *30-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI *37-1*
5. **CRISANTO ESPANA**
   N. Ireland *31-1*
6. **DERRELL COLEY**
   Capitol Heights, MD *28-1-2*
7. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
   Puerto Rico *22-0-1*
8. **VINCE PHILLIPS**
   Las Vegas, NV *33-1*
9. **EAMONN LOUGHRAN**
   Ireland *26-1-1*
10. **HECTOR CAMACHO**
    Orlando, FL *57-3*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia *16-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **FRANKIE RANDALL**
   Warren, OH *52-4-1*
3. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Mexico *95-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **FRED PENDLETON**
   Miami, FL *40-20-4*
5. **JUAN COGGI**
   Argentina *70-3-2 (WBA Champ)*
6. **SAMMY FUENTES**
   Hermosa Beach, CA *33-13-1*
8. **CHARLES MURRAY**
   Rochester, NY *35-3*
7. **JAKE RODRIGUEZ**
   Brentwood, NY *28-4-2*
9. **JAN BERGMAN**
   South Africa *29-0*
10. **KHALID RAHILOU**
    France *25-2*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Whittier, CA *20-0*
2. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *39-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **ORZUBEK NAZAROV**
   Japan *22-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO *17-0*
5. **GEORGE SCOTT**
   Pembroke Pines, FL *27-1*
6. **PHILIP HOLIDAY**
   South Africa *26-0 (IBF Champ)*
7. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA *19-0*
8. **LEAVANDER JOHNSON**
   Atlantic City, NJ *24-1-1*
9. **LAMAR MURPHY**
   Miami, FL *18-1*
10. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
    Puerto Rico *38-4*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **AZUMAH NELSON**
   Ghana *38-3-2 (WBC Champ)*
2. **ARTURO GATTI**
   Jersey City, NJ *22-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
   Los Angeles, CA *32-1-1*
4. **TRACY PATTERSON**
   Highland, NY *54-4-1*
5. **GABE RUELAS**
   Arleta, CA *41-3*
6. **JESSE JAMES LEIJA**
   San Antonio, TX *30-2-2*
7. **REGGIE TUUR**
   Whitestone, NY *40-3-1*
8. **ROBERT GARCIA**
   Oxnard, CA *23-0*
9. **YONG SOO CHOI**
   South Korea *19-0-3 (WBA Champ)*
10. **JEFF FENECH**
    Australia *27-2-1*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **TOM JOHNSON**
   Detroit, MI *41-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **LUISITO ESPINOSA**
   Japan *37-7 (WBC Champ)*
3. **MANUEL MEDINA**
   Mexico *51-7*
4. **ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *37-3*
5. **NASEEM HAMED**
   England *20-0*
6. **ELOY ROJAS**
   Venezuela *33-1-1 (WBA Champ)*
7. **EVER BELENO**
   Colombia *30-1*
8. **MIGUEL ARROZAL**
   Portland, OR *25-6*
9. **DERRICK GAINER**
   Pensacola, FL *15-3*
10. **STEVE ROBINSON**
    Wales *21-10-1*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Mexico *39-0*
2. **VUYANI BUNGU**
   South Africa *29-2 (IBF Champ)*
3. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
   Memphis, TN *28-1-1*
4. **ANTONIO CERMENO**
   Venezuela *23-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **DANIEL ZARAGOZA**
   Mexico *51-7-3 (WBC Champ)*
6. **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
   Laredo, TX *42-2-1*
7. **WELCOME NCITA**
   South Africa *36-2*
8. **HECTOR ACERO-SANCHEZ**
   New York, NY *32-3-3*
9. **ERIK MORALES**
   Mexico *20-0*
10. **JUNIOR JONES**
    Brooklyn, NY *38-2*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH**
   Las Vegas, NV *18-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **NANA KONADU**
   Ghana *36-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **MBULELO BOTILE**
   South Africa *18-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **ANCEE GEDEON**
   Westminster, CA *14-7-1*
5. **ELIECER JULIO**
   Colombia *29-1*
6. **JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI**
   Japan *12-2-1*
7. **VEERAPHOL SAHAPROM**
   Thailand *4-1*
8. **DAORUNG MP PETROLEUM**
   Thailand *55-5-1*
9. **PAULIE AYALA**
   Ft. Worth, TX *17-0*
10. **JOHNNY ARMOUR**
    England *20-0*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **HIROSHI KAWASHIMA**
   Japan *18-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Albuquerque, NM *32-0-2*
3. **CARLOS SALAZAR**
   Argentina *38-6-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **ALIMI GOITIA**
   Venezuela *13-0 (WBA Champ)*
5. **HAROLD GREY**
   Colombia *20-0*
6. **HYUNG CHUL LEE**
   South Korea *19-5*
7. **DAVID GRIMAN**
   Venezuela *21-2*
8. **RICARDO VARGAS**
   Mexico *20-4-3*
9. **ARTHUR JOHNSON**
   Cahokia, IL *11-3*
10. **GERRY PENALOSA**
    Philippines *30-1-1*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
   Japan *21-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. *28-1*
3. **SAEN SOW PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand *24-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **DANNY ROMERO**
   Albuquerque, NM *25-1 (IBF Champ)*
5. **ALBERTO JIMENEZ**
   Mexico *30-3-2*
6. **ISAIAS ZAMUDIO**
   Blythe, CA *40-5-1*
7. **ENRIQUE OROZCO**
   Mexico *30-4-1*
8. **CHATCHAI ELITE-GYM**
   Thailand *20-1*
9. **CHOKCHAI 3-K BATTERY**
   Thailand *29-1*
10. **ALEJANDRO MONTIEL**
    Mexico *31-2*

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **SAMAN SORJATURONG**
   Thailand *27-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **CHIQUITA GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *41-3*
3. **CARLOS MURILLO**
   Panama *30-2 (WBA Champ)*
4. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
   Phoenix, AZ *38-2*
5. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
   Mexico *45-4-4*
6. **HI YONG CHOI**
   South Korea *19-2*
7. **LEO GAMEZ**
   Venezuela *29-4-1*
8. **ERIC GRIFFIN**
   Jasper, TN *16-2*
9. **MANUEL JESUS HERRERA**
   Dominican Republic *16-4-1*
10. **SHIRO YAHIRO**
    Japan *21-2-1*

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Welterweight
2. **ROY JONES**
   Super Middleweight
3. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Strawweight
4. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Lightweight
5. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Welterweight
6. **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
   Flyweight
7. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Junior Welterweight
8. **RIDDICK BOWE**
   Heavyweight
9. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Junior Featherweight
10. **TERRY NORRIS**
    Junior Middleweight

NEW FACES

MICHAEL GRANT

Heavyweight

By Robert Cassidy

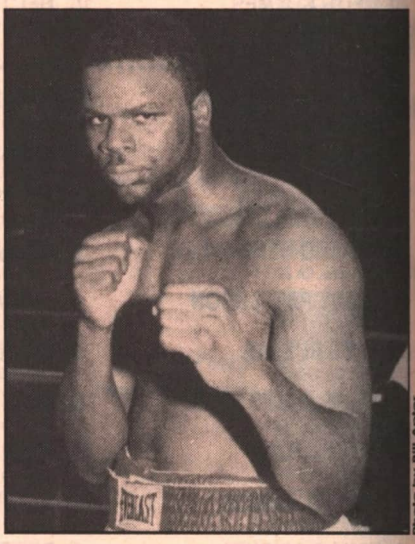

Photo by Bill Apter

Are natural athletes born or manufactured? There are arguments that can be made to support both opinions. A 95-mile-per-hour fastball can't be taught. A devastating slider can.

The same thinking applies to boxing. The power to knock a man unconscious with a single blow cannot be taught. It is a gift that transcends technique and skill. Power is something a fighter is born with.

But the fighter who possesses a dominant jab has been taught that punch by a trainer and has developed it by snapping it into a heavybag hundreds of times. So many times, in fact, that it appears instinctive. He may have had the natural ability to perfect the jab, but that ability had to be cultivated.

Heavyweight Michael Grant is a natural-born athlete. But he has to be taught to be a champion. Cus D'Amato firmly believed he could take a superb athlete of more than 200 pounds and teach and condition him to beat the heavyweight champion of the world. It was exactly that theory that nearly lured Wilt Chamberlain into the boxing ring. Chamberlain, it turned out, was an unwilling participant. But in Grant, a 6'7", 250-pound, 25-year-old heavyweight, D'Amato would have had the perfect specimen to work with. Now it is up to manager Bill Cayton and trainer Don Turner to prove D'Amato's theory true.

"Within a year Michael will be ranked in the top 10," said Cayton. "Within two years he will be a world champion. Right now, in

(Continued on page 59)

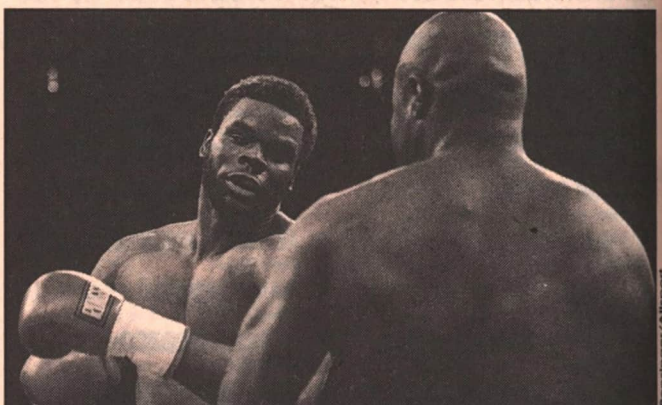

Photo by Doug Pensinger/Allsport

Grant guns for Bradley Rone

PRO RECORD

1994		
July 21	Ernest English, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ	KO 1
Aug. 7	Jerome Jones, Tunica, MS	KO 2
Sept. 6	Frankie Hines, Memphis	KO 1
Sept. 23	Elvin Evans, Tunica	KO 6
Oct. 4	Ed Strickland, Memphis	KO 1
Oct. 22	Carlton Brown, Grundy, VA	KO 1
Nov. 1	John Jackson, Memphis	W 4
Nov. 5	Steve Edwards, Las Vegas	W Disq. 5
Dec. 3	Danny Wofford, Grundy	W 8
Dec. 6	Tyrone Dixon, Memphis	KO 1
1995		
May 20	Lou Turchiarelli, Atlantic City	KO 1
Sept. 22	Stanley Wright, Lewiston, ME	KO 2
Nov. 10	Tim Noble, Atlantic City	KO 2
Dec. 7	Mike Dixon, Philadelphia	KO 6
1996		
Jan. 12	Bradley Rone, New York City	W 6

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
15	15	0	0	11

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The greatest grudge fights in boxing history are presented in this non-stop action video. See Jack Dempsey try to [illegible] from Gene Tunney and Joe Louis [illegible] revenge against Max Schmeling, [illegible] match Joe Walcott battle Ezzard Charles, and Rocky Marciano in [illegible] Frazier trilogy, plus a collection of footage that recounts boxing's most memorable bouts. **58 minutes.**

MORE ONE-PUNCH KNOCKOUTS
The exciting followup to Great One-Punch Knockouts. If you like knockout action, this video is a must for your collection. You'll see these fantastic one-punch knockouts and many more: Ali-Liston II, Louis-Braddock, Robinson-Fullmer, Patterson-Johansson II, Louis-Paycheck. **33 minutes.**

RINGSIDE WITH MIKE TYSON
Mike Tyson puts it all together in a colorful canvas that covers the main events, the controversies, the upsets, the multimillion-dollar gates, the records, and the comebacks. Footage includes Sonny Liston, Jake LaMotta, Ray Robinson, Ray Leonard, and much more. **44 minutes.**

THE MIDDLEWEIGHTS
The most skillful and devastating middleweights in the history of boxing are profiled in this fast-moving video. Watch stellar performances by Stanley Ketchel, Sugar Ray Robinson, and Marcel Cerdan. Also includes Rocky Graziano, Jake LaMotta, Carlos Monzon, and many others. Hosted by Curt Gowdy and Floyd Patterson. **58 minutes.**

BOXING'S GREATEST CHAMPIONS
Match wits with the Boxing Writers of America as they choose the best fighter of all-time from each division and then debate who deserves the title of the Greatest Fighter of All-Time. Includes explosive fight footage of Henry Armstrong, Benny Leonard, and Roberto Duran in the lightweight division; welterweights Barney Ross, Henry Armstrong, and Ray Robinson; middleweights Mickey Walker, Carlos Monzon, and Ray Robinson; light heavyweights Bob Fitzsimmons, Billy Conn, and Archie Moore; heavyweights Muhammad Ali, Rocky Marciano, and Joe Louis. **60 minutes.**

THE HEAVYWEIGHTS: "THE BIG PUNCHERS"
The biggest draw in sports today is the heavyweight knockout artist. This hard-hitting video explores boxing's most famous punchers. A sample of the action included in this video are clips of Dempsey's savage victory over Willard, the second Louis-Schmeling fight, Marciano vs. Walcott, and Frazier vs. Ali. **59 minutes.**

GREAT ONE-PUNCH KNOCKOUTS
You've got a ringside seat for a heart-stopping lineup of boxing's most exciting knockouts, including Muhammad Ali-George Foreman, Ezzard Charles-Joe Walcott, Jim Corbett-Bob Fitzsimmons, Rocky Marciano-Joe Walcott, Sugar Ray Robinson-Rocky Graziano, and many more. **30 minutes.**

THE HEAVYWEIGHTS: THE STYLISTS
Host Curt Gowdy highlights the careers of the sport's finest boxers. Beginning with Jim Corbett, you'll see challengers throughout history battle in some of the most striking film coverage ever assembled. Jack Johnson displays exquisite defensive skills, Floyd Patterson shows off his peek-a-boo style, Gene Tunney demonstrates the scientific approach to boxing, and Muhammad Ali exhibits the skills that made him "The Greatest," plus Walcott, Charles, and Louis. **57 minutes.**

TYSON AND THE HEAVYWEIGHTS
Join Mike Tyson as he takes a tour through the history of the heavyweight division. Tyson adds his own insight as he analyzes the styles and lives of the men who wore the heavyweight crown before him. This fantastic video includes rare footage of Jack Johnson, Jack Dempsey, Joe Louis, Rocky Marciano, Muhammad Ali, and, of course, Tyson himself. **51 minutes.**

Photo by Bill Apler

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RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

10,000 EGOMANIACS

Did you happen to get a look at that Star Wars tracer beam Fox Sports unveiled during its telecast of the National Hockey League All-Star Game in January? Fox utilized the high-tech comet tail to help television viewers follow the path of the speeding puck, but the innovation might actually be put to better use on the network's boxing telecasts. If tiny computer chips can be installed in a puck, why not in a boxing glove? If Roy Jones ever fights on Fox, those computerized streaks of light may be the only way the naked eye can determine which flight path his punches take to their target.

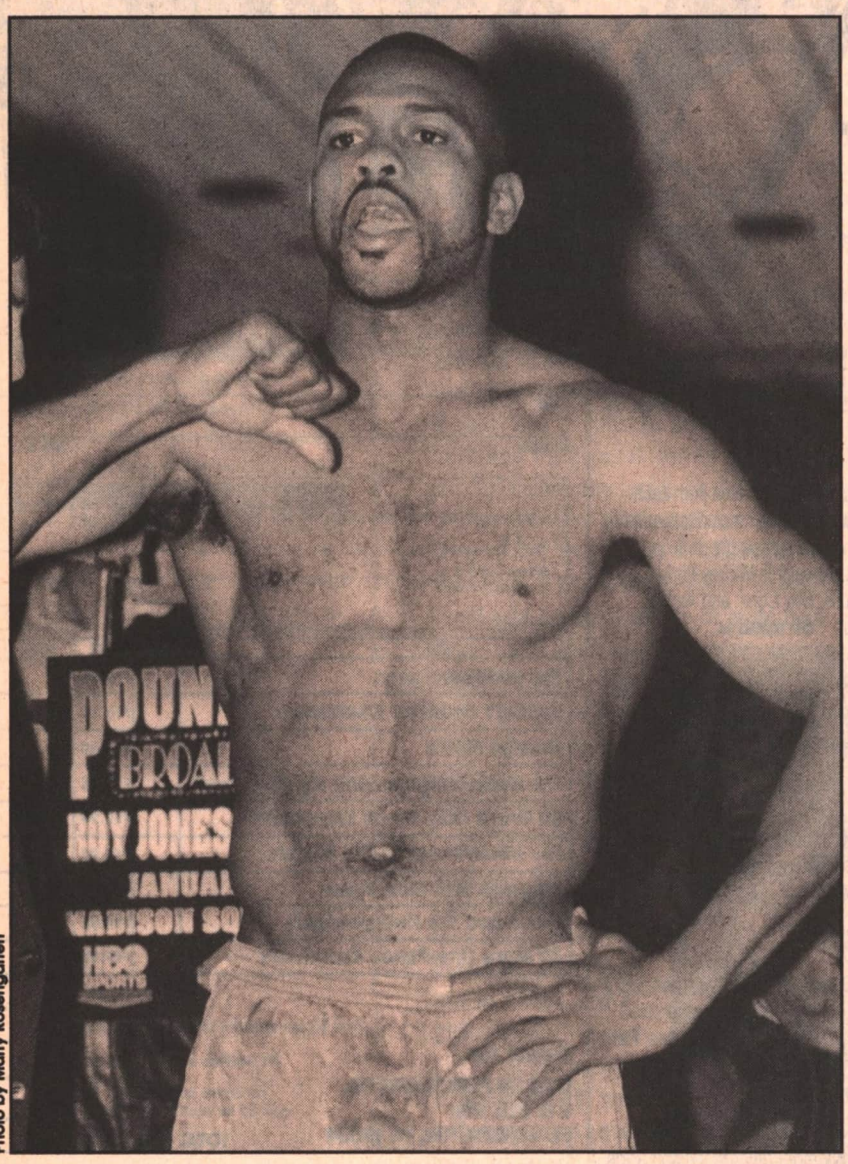


Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Roy Jones says he's the one, and who are we to disagree? Some observers are uncomfortable with Jones' ego, but what great fighter has ever excelled without one?

What's that? Don't be writing that kind of stuff about Jones? His ego doesn't need any more inflating?

Well, excuse me for asking, but since when has the open display of ego, arrogance, and moxie been considered beneath the, *ahem*, dignity of the fight game? Apparently, since the big ball was lowered in Times Square at the end of '95, and a new standard of behavior was raised in boxing at the beginning of '96. At least that's the impression one would have gotten from reading the newspaper coverage and hearing the television reports of the first important boxing event of the new year.

In the days leading to his Madison Square Garden blasting of Merqui Sosa on January 12, Jones was hammered in the press for acting as though he was above all the traditional prefight proceedings.

When Jones didn't show up for the final prefight press conference, a needless ritual that is a media favorite only because there is usually free food on hand, you would have thought he'd blown off dinner with Bill, Hillary, and Chelsea. Standing in a neutral corner with his hands on his hips and a look of smug satisfaction on his face after he decked Sosa in round two invited more criticism. Who does Jones think he is? A combination of Muhammad Ali and Sugar Ray Leonard?

Maybe he does. So what.

Ego is, and always will be, as much a part of boxing as handwraps, mouthpieces, and third men in the ring. Through the years, such all-time greats as Leonard, Marvin Hagler, Mike Tyson, and Larry Holmes—my generation's Mount Rushmore of Egomania—have taught me that in order for a fighter to walk down the hallowed

halls of immortality, he must first believe he can walk on water. Ego is as important in a great fighter's repertoire as timing, power, and the ability to take a whack. At the truly elite level, where the difference in skills and desire between the two best combatants in a division is often minuscule, sometimes the only factor that gives one guy the edge is his belief that he can do anything he wants to anyone he wants any time he wants.

Ergo, the ego is a self-preservation tool. If one's head swells sufficiently outside the ring, maybe it won't swell inside the ring. The great ring egomaniacs used ego in their own particular ways. Ali beat opponents over the head with it. "The Greatest" boasted and bragged, the turnstiles hummed, and the other guy, despite vowing that he'd never be affected by the verbal onslaught, eventually succumbed. A befuddled Sonny Liston truly thought Ali was crazy. As he tired badly in Zaire, the younger, stronger George Foreman began wondering if the 32-year-old Ali really was Superman.

Tyson relied on bully egomania: building himself up by tearing others down, both physically and verbally. He would bash a foe to the canvas and afterward claim his bodypunches made the other guy "scream like a woman." Hagler's egomania was one built on paranoia. He was convinced the boxing establishment had simply tired of his greatness. So they tried to break his spirit by force-feeding him undeserving mandatory contenders and unnecessary rematches. For Hagler, the old "I'll show them" served as high octane fuel. Hagler's ego still won't let him admit he lost to Leonard, and it's not just public posturing. Marvelous is convinced he was finally done in by those evil powers-that-be.

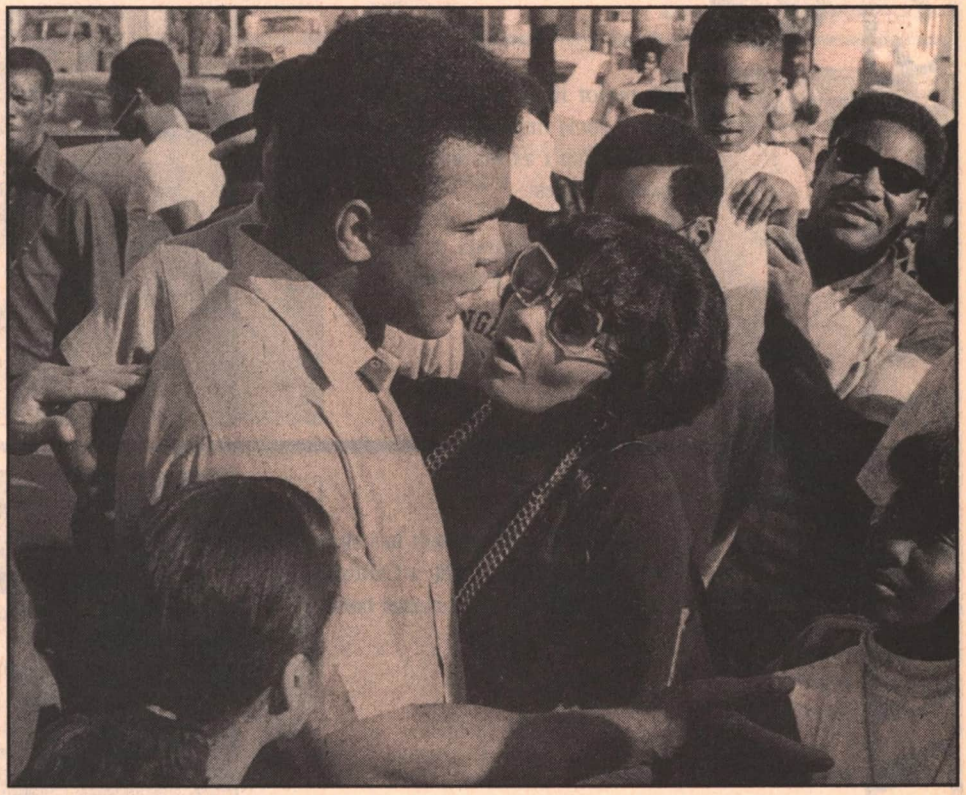
Like Hagler, Holmes used the Nobody-Loves-Me-So-I've-Got-To-Love-Myself excuse for having an ego the size of Easton. Holmes thought every fan, writer, and boxing person in America was rooting against him, no matter what the evidence was to the contrary. And Leonard's ego seems to have been rooted in the belief that he was chosen by God to be something special. Singer. Dancer. Basketball player. Boxer. Whatever. He was destined for greatness, and the mission had to be fulfilled.

Jones' incredible hand speed may separate him from all of the mere mortals in his industry, but his natural skills have become more dangerous since they've been combined with incredible self-confidence and the belief that nobody deserves to be in the same ring with him. Cocky. In his own orbit. *This* is Jones at his best. He swaggers and the other guy staggers. Ego-inflation is only a natural byproduct of being farther away than ever from the paralyzing control of his father, of dominating James Toney, and of cracking the supposedly granite chins of the Sugarboy Malingas, Tony Thorntons, and Sosas. Put Jones' ego on the shelf and what do you have? That 12-round safety dance around Bernard Hopkins at RFK Stadium.

(By the way, on the matter of Jones not showing up in The Big Apple several days before the bout, sure, the fighter, to some extent, thought some of the silly prefight protocol was beneath him. But I also believe Jones when he says that he feared getting sick in the New York weather. Jones is a guy who considers anything below 70 degrees freezing, and who could be the pitchman for an "I Hate New York" campaign. A few years ago, I met Jones in his room at Manhattan's gorgeous Marriott Marquis hotel. Out the window was a spectacular view of Times Square in all its neon splendor. When I said to Jones, "Great view, huh?" he proceeded to describe New York in terms that made me think we were sitting in the Motel Hell and staring out at a toxic waste dump.)

Just accept the fact that mega-egos are rampant in boxing, something we're reminded of every time we call someone the best cut man in the game, or the best ring announcer in Southern Missouri and then get nasty phone calls from guys saying, "Hey, how could you forget about me?" Referees, managers, promoters, publicists, writers, broadcasters, statisticians, sparring partners, bucket-carriers, hangers-on, recordkeepers, athletic commissioners, nutritionists, translators, round-card girls, guys who set up the ring, hot dog vendors, ticket-takers, glove manufacturers, bell-ringers, and timekeepers—you name 'em, and they've got extremely high opinions of themselves.

So let's start worrying about more important things than how big Jones' head has become. The last time I looked, noggin size wasn't included in the tale of the tape. ■



As "The Greatest," Muhammad Ali couldn't help but have an inflated ego; he was mobbed wherever he went. As a private man, however, he remained humble and deeply rooted in religion.

THE RING'S EXCLUSIVE

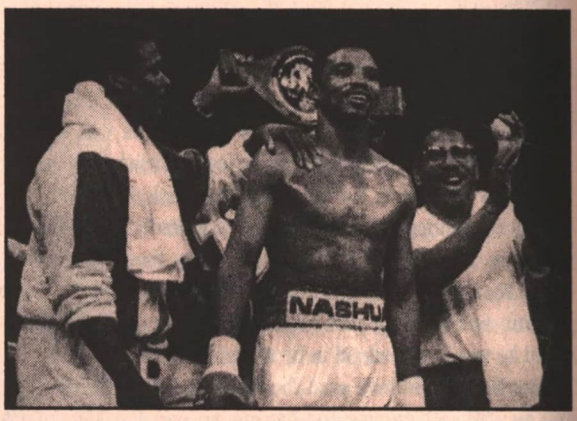
PHOTO QUIZ TEST

Can you identify the fighters in these photos? Award yourself 10 points for each question you answer correctly. If you score a total of 90-100 points, consider yourself a world champion. If you score 70-80 points, you rate as a top-10 contender. If you score 50-60 points, you're a clubfighter at best. Less than 50 points? Eat another piece of cheesecake and forget about that morning roadwork.

THIS MONTH: TODAY'S CONTENDERS

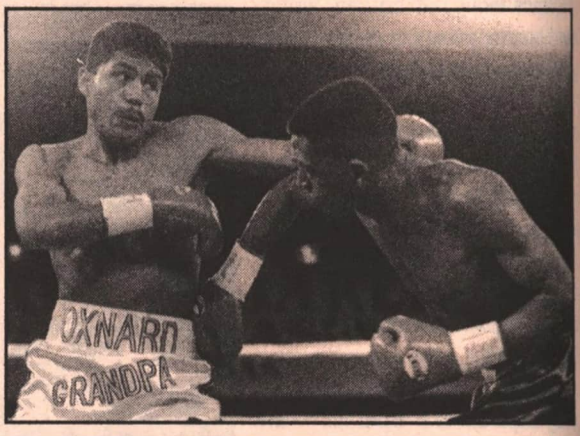
1

This junior welterweight is undefeated and headed for a title shot this year. Hint: He's foreign-born, but has fought in the USA.



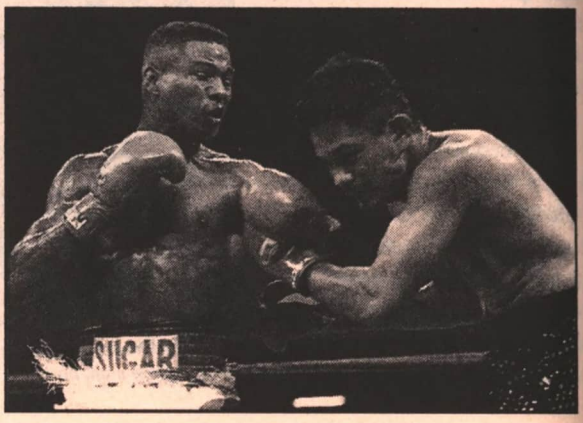
2

A junior lightweight who has registered some impressive wins, this contender isn't as old as his nickname would suggest.



3

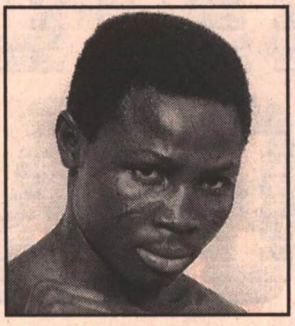
A change in management has slowed this sizzling lightweight, a Californian with all the moves of a master boxer.



YOUR BOXING IQ

4

One of the heaviest punchers in the lighter weight classes, this bantamweight is often confused with a former world champion with the same surname.



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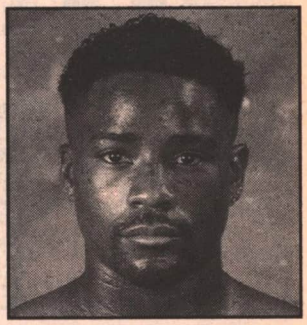
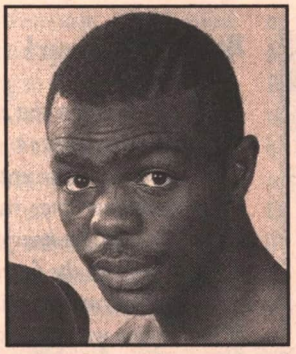
Despite a lack of height and reach, this lightweight may be the best fighter in his division. He'll probably get a shot in '96.



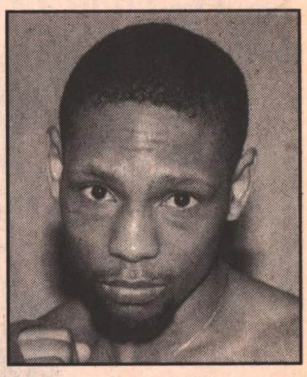
6

This photo was taken eight years ago, when the flyweight/junior bantamweight was a U.S. Olympian. He's hoping for a second shot at a world title.



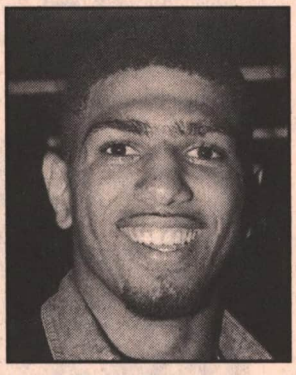
7

Is this the hardest-punching lightweight in the world? Inactivity has plagued this contender, who failed in his lone try at world honors.



8

Nice smile, nice style. This crafty southpaw campaigns in the talent-laden junior middleweight division. Like our two previous contenders, he's seeking his second try at the title.



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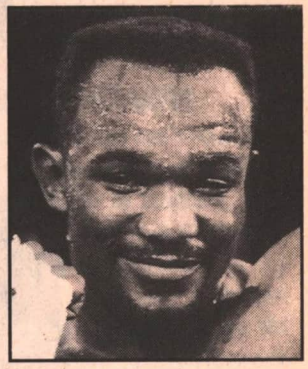
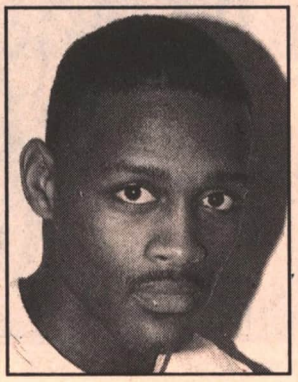
This super middleweight enjoyed a nice run in 1995. That smile is likely to disappear when he challenges Roy Jones.



10

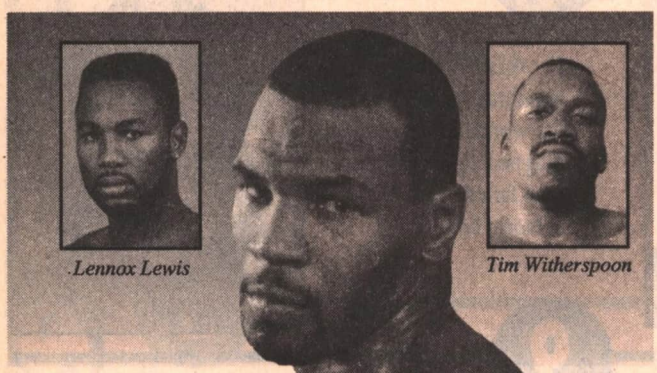
When this slick, quick welterweight looks good, there's no one more impressive. His first title shot will almost definitely come this year.



ANSWERS:

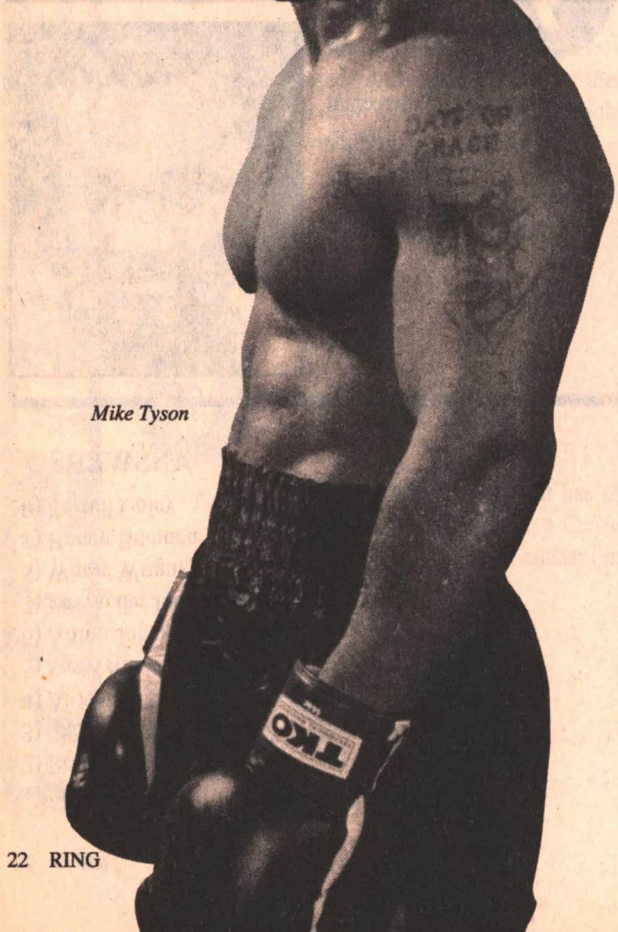
1) Jan Bergman
2) Robert Garcia
3) Shane Mosley
4) Al Kotey
5) Steve Johnston
6) Arthur Johnson
7) Leavander Johnson
8) Winky Wright
9) Bryant Brannon
10) Derrell Coley

THE STATE OF THE GAME



Lennox Lewis

Tim Witherspoon



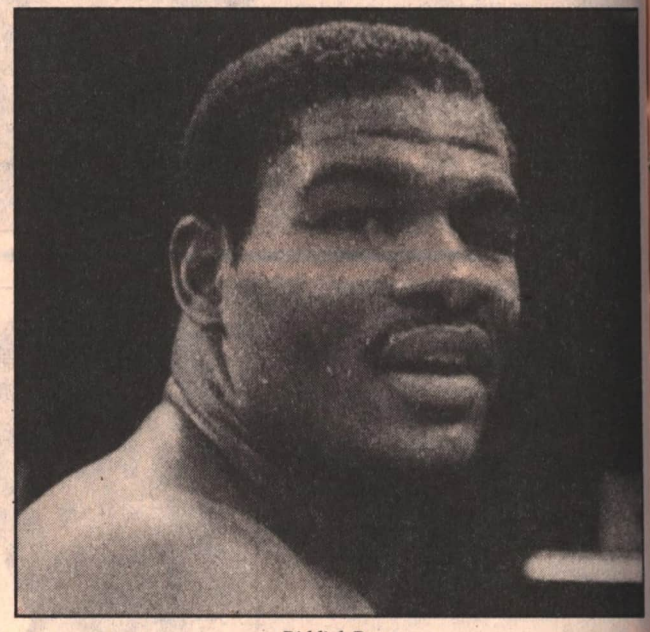
Mike Tyson

By Steve Farhood

For three years, the state of the game was Indiana, where Mike Tyson was incarcerated for rape. Tyson has since resumed his career, and the heavyweight division is again the focal point of boxing. We can't promise that in 1996 Tyson will establish himself as the baddest man on the planet. But he's likely to reunify the title, and if Riddick Bowe, who is regarded as the best heavyweight in the world, and Lennox Lewis clash in April, the winner will emerge as Tyson's chief rival. Forget the rest—and let's hope the best fight each other.

At the lighter weights, one of the fights we'd like to see is likely to materialize, and the other isn't. Julio Cesar Chavez will take on Oscar De La Hoya, but Pernell Whitaker-Felix Trinidad remains a fantasy.

As usual, if the state of the game is hurting, it's nothing a few good fights can't cure.



Riddick Bowe

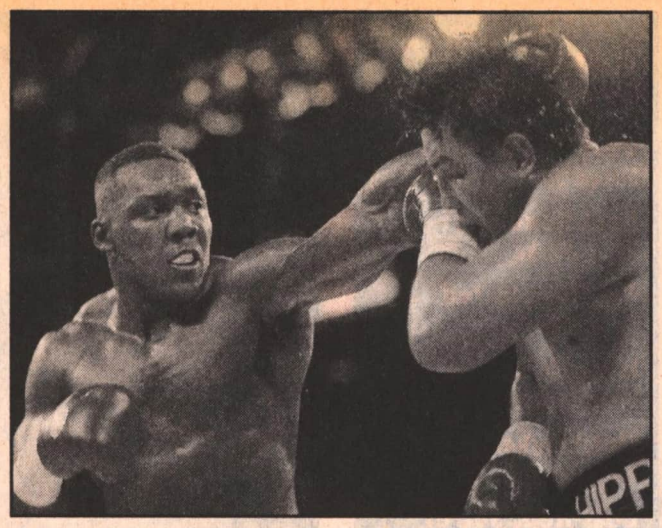
HEAVYWEIGHTS

We can only hope Mike Tyson's drive to reunify the title is interrupted by a showdown with boxing's best big man, Riddick Bowe. If not, look for Tyson to dethrone Frank Bruno (WBC) in March, Bruce Seldon (WBA) in June, and Frans Botha (IBF) in September. It took Don King more than five years to regain control of the championship, and he's not going to share it until he has to. The strange thing about Tyson's proposed schedule is that he starts with the toughest opponent and finishes with the easiest. And while we're nitpicking, aren't a division's champions supposed to be better than its challengers?

This is not a one-man show, a fact that will be emphasized in April, when Bowe is supposed to engage in his long-anticipated battle with Lennox Lewis. And don't forget the revitalized Tim Witherspoon, though most of the champs and contenders are trying to do just that.

On March 15, HBO was scheduled to launch a series for young heavyweights. Sounds good to us. It's about time someone, whether it be Andrew Golota, Shannon Briggs, David Tua, or Danell Nicholson emerges to challenge the superstars.

Think About It: We didn't need the victory posted by Mitchell Rose (1-6-1) over Butterbean (15-0) to remind us that records, especially at heavyweight, mean next to nothing. Consider that in December, IBF king Botha (36-0) became the 21st unbeaten heavyweight to win at least a portion of the world title. Of the 20 others, only Rocky Marciano (43-0) and George Foreman (38-0) had better records at the time of their coronations.



Bruce Seldon chops down Joe Hipp

HEAVYWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Mike Tyson

Best Boxer
Bruce Seldon

Most Protected
Vaughn Bean

Is He *Still* Around?
Mitch Green

Matchmaker's Dream
Mike Tyson-Riddick Bowe

Best-Kept Secret
Michael Grant

Deserves A Title Shot
Lennox Lewis

Most Fun To Watch
Mike Tyson

On The Way Down
Evander Holyfield

Underrated
Danell Nicholson

Best Fight In 1995
Riddick Bowe KO 8
Evander Holyfield

CRUISERWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Carl Thompson

Best Boxer
James Toney

Most Protected
Yosukezan Nishizima

Is He *Still* Around?
Dennis Andries

Matchmaker's Dream
James Toney-Bobby Czyz

Best-Kept Secret
Marcelo Dominguez

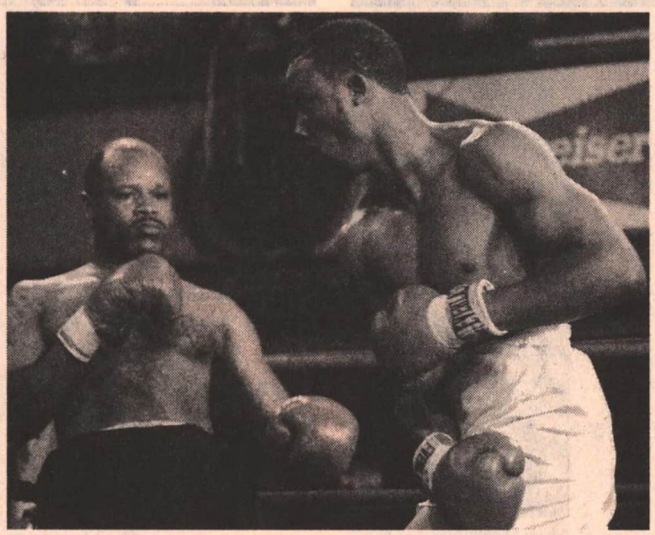
Deserves A Title Shot
Adolpho Washington

Most Fun To Watch
Bobby Crabtree

On The Way Down
Iran Barkley

Underrated
Torsten May

Best Fight In 1995
Marcelo Dominguez W 12
Sergei Kobozev



Nate Miller wobbles Kenneth Jackson

Al Cole

Sergei Kobozev

Thomas Hearns

CRUISERWEIGHTS

In 1995, this can't-win division continued to make all the wrong kinds of headlines, such as "South African Contender Ginger Tshabalala Shot To Death," "Sergei Kobozev Disappears; Police Have No Clues," and "USA Network Urged Not To Air Thomas Hearns Fight."

If "The Hit Man" were 10 years younger, he'd provide more than enough excitement. Instead, there are whispers that he's feeling the effects of taking a few too many blows. What we're left with, then, is IBF champion Al Cole, who wants to be a heavyweight, WBC champion Anaclet Wamba, who will likely retire before the end

of the year, and WBA king Nate Miller, who fails to generate enthusiasm because he so rarely seems enthused himself.

Why can't Butterbean be a cruiserweight? Hell, at this point we'll settle for Bobby Czyz.

The only 190-pounder to watch is WBC interim champion Marcelo Dominguez, who at least guarantees action. Germany's Torsten May is talented but boring. And then there's James Toney, who continues to audition for the role of Incredible Expanding Man. By the time you read this, he'll probably be a heavyweight.

Think About It: How tough will it be for Czyz, Cole, and former champ Orlin Norris to make it as heavyweights? Of the 22 cruisers to reign since the inception of the division in 1979, only Evander Holyfield went on to win the heavyweight title. Worse yet, the only cruiser kings besides Holyfield to crack the heavyweight top 10 were Ossie Ocasio and Norris, and both did it *before* campaigning at 190 pounds.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Any objections to nuking the entire division and pretending it never existed? Objection overruled. Where have all the stars gone? James Toney made a pit stop, then jumped up to cruiserweight. Michael Nunn jumped back down to super middleweight. Mike McCallum, who adds a touch of class, was all but erased by WBC champion Fabrice Tiozzo. Dariusz Michalczewski and the division's best, IBF king Henry Maske, never fight outside of Germany. Prince Charles Williams was finished by Merqui Sosa. And in 1995, longtime WBA titlist Virgil Hill began fighting remote opponents in remote places. If you're still breathing, Virgil, contact us toll-free at 1-800- ...

There are some exciting contenders, including Ole Klemetsen, Louis Del Valle, William Guthrie, and 1992 Olympian Montell Griffin. But given the recent history of the light heavys, those fighters will either jump weights or turn into flops, leaving us to wonder whatever happened to Vonzell Johnson.

Think About It: When Griffin upset Toney in February '95, it seemed the star-starved 175-pound division had finally given us someone to get excited about. But Griffin has since fought in relative obscurity, which again leaves us with Frank Tate and (yawn) Hill. At least there's been more activity. In 1994, only six of the nearly 200 TV fights were light heavy encounters. In '95, it was 14 of 220 bouts, including a pair of fight-of-the-year candidates featuring Sosa and Williams.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Roy Jones lives here, though he'd like to change his address from IBF to NBA. If Basketball Jones wants to moonlight as a point guard, we wish him nothing but swishes. But does he realize no one is gonna pay him millions to make free throws?

Jones is arguably the world's best fighter. WBC champion Nigel Benn became *one* of the best by outlasting Gerald McClellan last February. It would be nice to think Jones-Benn is sure to materialize, especially since Jones is desperate for challenges. But Pernell Whitaker-Felix Trinidad seems a natural, too, and we're still waiting for that one.

Chris Eubank, the division's most colorful and controversial figure, has at least temporarily retired. The void isn't going to be filled by Sugarboy Malinga, Bryant Brannon, or any of the other top-rated 168-pounders. Steve Collins makes for good

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Merqui Sosa

Best Boxer
Henry Maske

Most Protected
Duran Williams

Is He *Still* Around?
Leslie Stewart

Matchmaker's Dream
Roy Jones-Virgil Hill

Best-Kept Secret
William Guthrie

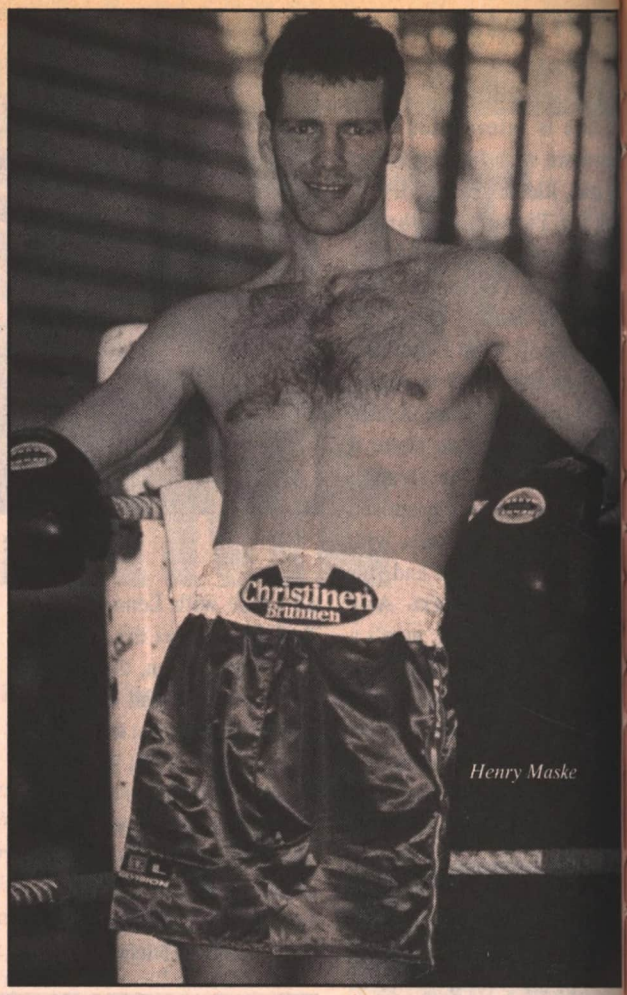
Deserves A Title Shot
Montell Griffin

Most Fun To Watch
Merqui Sosa

On The Way Down
Prince Charles Williams

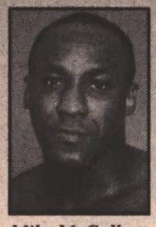
Underrated
Dariusz Michalczewski

Best Fight In 1995
Merqui Sosa Tech. Draw 7
Prince Charles Williams



Henry Maske

Merqui Sosa


Mike McCallum

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Roy Jones

Best Boxer
Roy Jones

Most Protected
Bryant Brannon

Is He *Still* Around?
Roberto Duran

Matchmaker's Dream
Roy Jones-Nigel Benn

Best-Kept Secret
Ravea Springs

Deserves A Title Shot
Michael Nunn

Most Fun To Watch
Steve Collins

On The Way Down
Juan Carlos Gimenez

Underrated
Henry Wharton

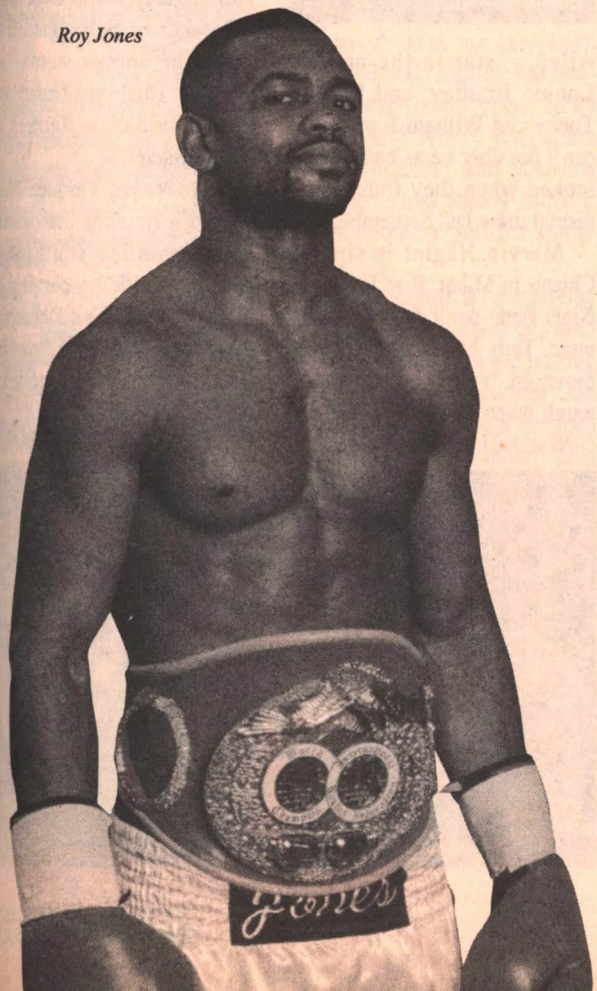
Best Fight In 1995
Nigel Benn KO 10
Gerald McClellan

Frankie Liles

Nigel Benn

Vinny Pazienza

Roy Jones

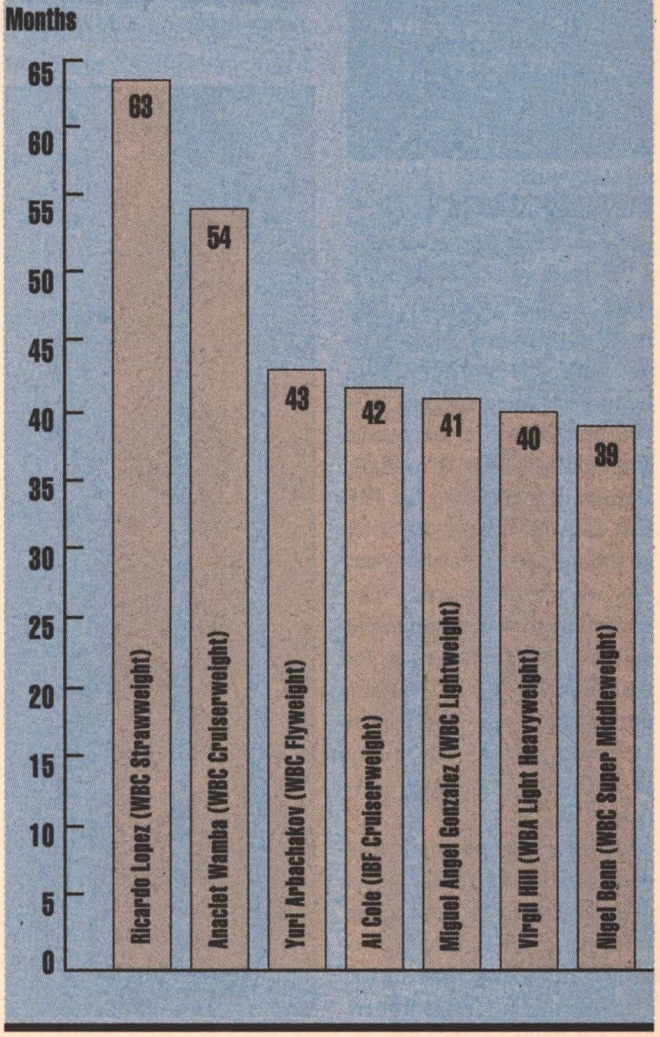


fights, and WBA champion Frank Liles, who has to get by nemesis Tim Littles, is skilled, if bland. Henry Wharton's left hook demands attention, and Vinny Pazienza remains fan-friendly, though he was cruelly exposed by Jones. This division is far healthier than most. Look for a new wave of contenders, led by Cincinnati's Ravea Springs and Wales' Joe Calzaghe.

Think About It: Benn's stoppage of the ill-fated McClellan was the only memorable 168-pound fight in 1995. Will there be even one in '96? The division seems destined to be remembered for the fights that *didn't* happen, such as Benn-McClellan II, Benn-Jones, Benn-Eubank III, and Jones-McClellan. Instead, we'll be served Jones-Brannon and Benn-Malinga.

LONGEST-REIGNING CHAMPIONS

The following shows boxing's most established champions, as well as the number of months of their uninterrupted reigns. Ricardo Lopez and Anaclet Wamba, both of whom were slowed by injuries in 1995, continue to head the list. This year's newcomers: Miguel Angel Gonzalez, Virgil Hill, and Nigel Benn.



MIDDLEWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Julian Jackson

Best Boxer
John David Jackson

Most Protected
Dana Rosenblatt

Is He *Still* Around?
Howard Davis Jr.

Matchmaker's Dream
A return to the '80s

Best-Kept Secret
Robert Allen

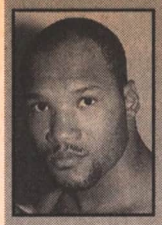
Deserves A Title Shot
John David Jackson

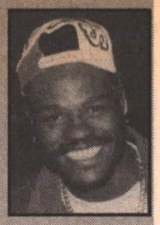
Most Fun To Watch
Derrick Rolon

On The Way Down
Young Dick Tiger

Underrated
Otis Grant

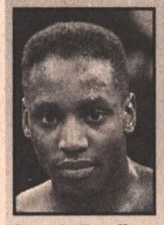
Best Fight In 1995
Aaron Davis W 10
Simon Brown


Quincy Taylor


Terry Norris

Dana Rosenblatt

Bronco McKart


Lonnie Bradley

Carl Daniels

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Terry Norris

Best Boxer
Carl Daniels

Most Protected
P.J. Goossen

Is He *Still* Around?
Buck Smith

Matchmaker's Dream
Terry Norris-Pernell Whitaker

Best-Kept Secret
Ernie Artango

Deserves A Title Shot
Bronco McKart

Most Fun To Watch
Vincent Pettway

On The Way Down
Anthony Jones

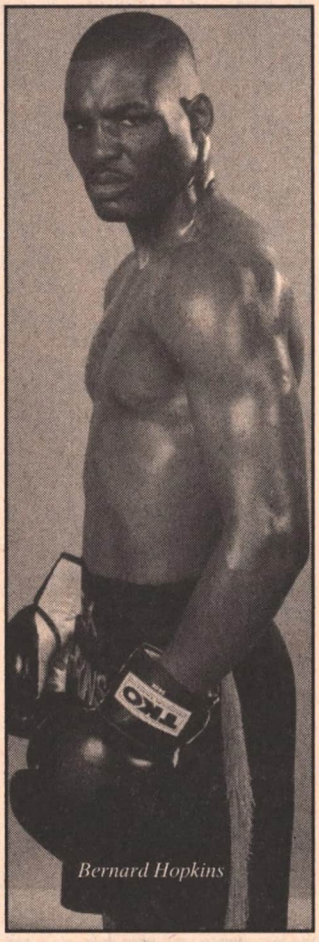
Underrated
Winky Wright

Best Fight In 1995
Vincent Pettway KO 6
Simon Brown

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Middleweights and *momentum* begin with the same letter, but that's where the similarity ends. Quincy Taylor won the WBC title in August, then underwent knee surgery. His first defense will come against England's Richie Woodhall. Bernard Hopkins won the IBF title in April, then froze it by sitting out the rest of the year. (As we went to press, "The Executioner" was scheduled to defend for the first time.) As for the WBA title, Shinji Takehara dethroned Jorge Castro in December. Expect him to stay in Japan—and remain a mystery.

None of the champions is dominant, so look for additional title changes in '96. Among the contenders: the not-ready-for-prime-time Dana Rosenblatt, Canada's Otis Grant, Robert Allen, star-in-the-making Lonnie Bradley, and Rodney Toney and William Joppy, who can't possibly be as bad as they looked when they fought to a dismal draw last September.


Bernard Hopkins

Marvin Hagler is sipping Chianti in Milan. Roy Jones and Nigel Benn don't fight here anymore. Terry Norris isn't going to move up. You know things are tough when you have to get excited about John David Jackson.

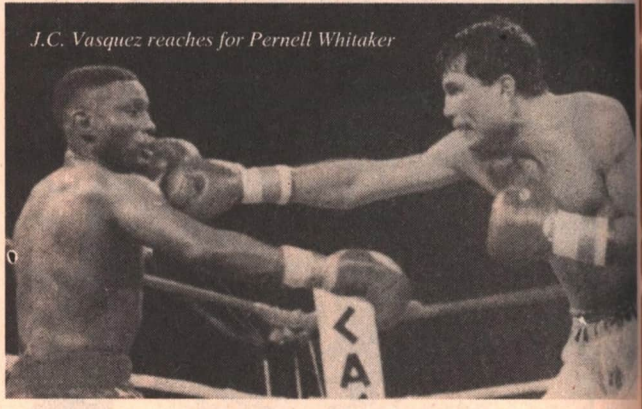
Think About It: Strange times in Japan. WBA middleweight champion Takehara was the first Japanese to fight for the world 160-pound title. At least he's a native. Three of the five Japan-based world champs, Luisito Espinosa, Orzubek Nazarov, and Yuri Arbachakov, aren't Japanese at all. And the country's most popular boxer, former bantam champ Joichiro Tatsuyoshi, isn't allowed to fight in his homeland, because he's undergone retinal surgery.

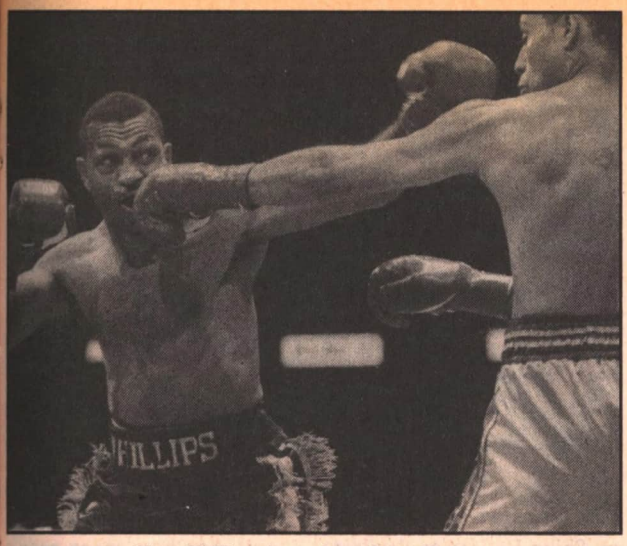
JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

In 1995, WBC-IBF champion Terry Norris eliminated Luis Santana and Paul Vaden from his path. (Who could have imagined Santana would prove more resistant than Vaden?) In '96, "Terrible Terry" will make his second assault on the pound-for-pound rankings. A unification victory over WBA titlist Julio Cesar Vasquez will help, but Norris needs a win over Pernell Whitaker or Felix Trinidad to regain his former status. We'll say this for him: There aren't many world-class fighters we'd rather watch.

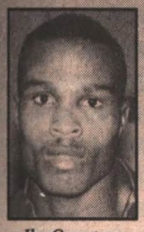
Like Norris, Vasquez has displayed a flair for the dramatic. The Argentine southpaw regained the title by coming from behind to kayo Carl Daniels with one punch. Moreover, his chin is just vulnerable enough to keep all his fights interesting.

Norris and Vasquez shouldn't


J.C. Vasquez reaches for Pernell Whitaker



Vince Phillips shoots down Omar Flores



Ike Quartey

Oba Carr

Felix Trinidad

WELTERWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Felix Trinidad

Best Boxer
Pernell Whitaker

Most Protected
Ralph Jones

Is He *Still* Around?
Lonnie Smith

Matchmaker's Dream
Pernell Whitaker-Felix Trinidad

Best-Kept Secret
James Page

Deserves A Title Shot
Vincent Phillips

Most Fun To Watch
Adrian Stone

On The Way Down
Hector Lopez

Underrated
Jose Lopez

Best Fight In 1995
Jesse James Hughes KO 10 Adrian Stone

get too comfortable, because this division contains as many championship-caliber contenders as any other. Yori Boy Campas and Vincent Pettway are one-punch threats; Bronco McKart has bested top-level competition; Keith Holmes and Winky Wright are master boxers; and Andrew Council retired Buddy McGirt, which should count for something.

Think About It: Everybody wants one world champ per division, but we haven't been making much progress. Consider that December's showdown between Norris and then-IBF titlist Vaden was the first unification bout in the division's 34-year history. And consider that with junior flyweight champion Saman Sorjaturong stripped of the IBF belt, Norris is the only unified champ in the game.

WELTERWEIGHTS

In early-January, IBF champion Felix Trinidad made kissy-kissy with Don King, which means he's not likely to make punchy-punchy with Pernell Whitaker. That's too bad, because Trinidad and WBC champion Whitaker are not only the two best welters in the world, but two of the best fighters, regardless of weight. Look for Whitaker to instead square off with Wilfredo Rivera, and then unbeaten WBA champion Ike Quartey, who's every bit the puncher Trinidad is. Unlike Roy Jones, who competes with Whitaker for the top spot in the pound-for-pound ratings, "Sweet Pea" is surrounded by suitable competition. If he doesn't want to unify by duking it out with Quartey, he can try WBC super welterweight titlist Terry Norris, who has issued a formal challenge and is willing to reduce three or four pounds to make the fight happen.

This may be boxing's strongest division. Hard-punching Vince Phillips may unseat Quartey, and if he doesn't, the slick Oba Carr, the Ghanaian's mandatory challenger, just might do it; Derrell Coley's only weakness is a suspect chin; Crisanto Espana is ready to reemerge; and Puerto Rico's Rivera, who's been patient, has earned his shot.

Think About It: Is the welterweight division the deepest in boxing? In our ratings, the top nine 147-pounders have suffered a combined six losses. No one's lost more than once, and three of the defeats were inflicted by other rated fighters, with Carr having lost to Trinidad, Espana to Quartey, and Coley to Carr. Now if the *champs* would only fight each other ...

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

And the Oscar goes to ... WBC super lightweight champion Julio Cesar Chavez, who, like John Wayne in *True Grit*, deserves to be rewarded for long and meritorious service. Former lightweight cham-

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Kostya Tszyu

Best Boxer
Charles Murray

Most Protected
Jan Bergman

Is He *Still* Around?
Livingstone Bramble

Matchmaker's Dream
Oscar De La Hoya-Julio Cesar Chavez

Best-Kept Secret
Diobelis Hurtado

Deserves A Title Shot
Freddie Pendleton

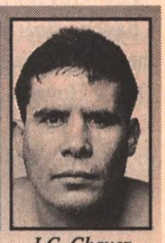
Most Fun To Watch
Sammy Fuentes

On The Way Down
Fidel Avendano

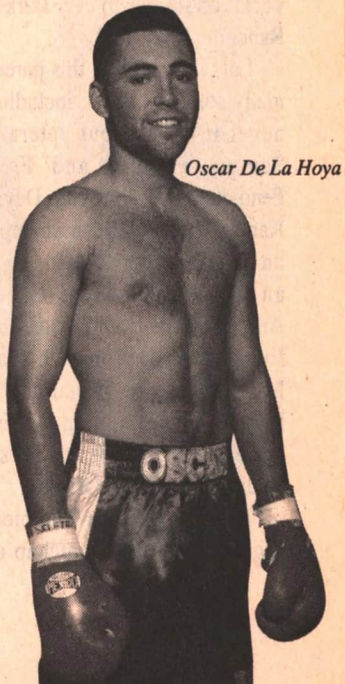
Underrated
Khalid Rahilou

Best Fight In 1995
Sammy Fuentes W 12 Hector Lopez

Juan Coggi



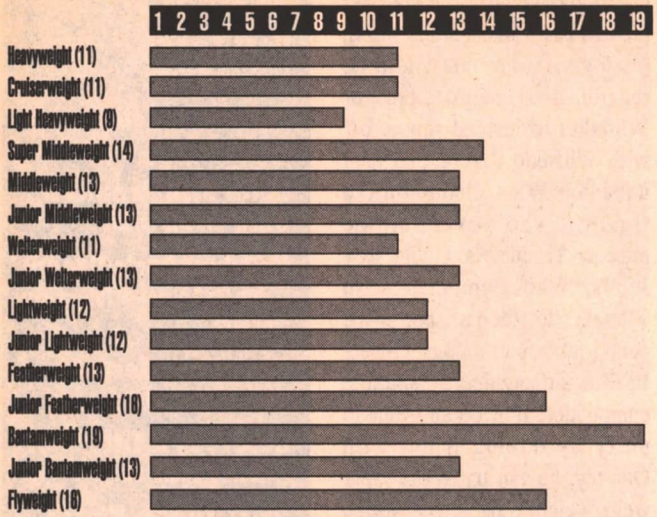
J.C. Chavez



Oscar De La Hoya

THE CHAMPS OF THE '90s

Which divisions have had the most world champions (the WBA, WBC, and IBF variety) in the '90s? A division-by-division breakdown



pion Oscar De La Hoya is the hottest non-heavyweight in the game, and in a career-defining bout, he'll square off with Chavez in June.

Our choice of scenarios: "The Golden Boy" defeats Chavez, clearing the way for the ultimate rivalry of the '90s, De La Hoya vs. IBF champion Kostya Tszyu. Give us that dream fight and we'll forget all others. Forget WBA champion Juan Coggi, who still has to prove he deserved his controversial victory over Frankie Randall.

Lots of quality in this perennially strong division, including never-in-a-bad-bout veterans Sammy Fuentes and Fred Pendleton, the improving David Kamau, and European champion Khalid Rahilou. Also, keep an eye on Freddy Ladd, Australia's Shannan Taylor, and former champion Charles Murray, who presumably learned something from his disappointing losses to Jake Rodriguez and Ray Oliveira.

Think About It: The most eagerly anticipated matchup of 1996 is Chavez vs. De La Hoya. Consider some of the numbers: Chavez is 33, and De La Hoya 23; Chavez has fought 272 championship rounds, and De La Hoya two; Chavez has engaged in 33 world title fights, and De La Hoya one; Chavez has been a junior welterweight for eight years, and as we went to press, De La Hoya had yet to fight at the weight. So, of course, we're picking De La Hoya by kayo.

LIGHTWEIGHTS

And the Oscar goes to ... junior welterweight. With De La Hoya moving up and out, and WBC champion Miguel Angel Gonzalez likely to soon do the same—the Mexican has been complaining about his struggle to make weight almost since winning the title—there ain't a whole lot left. Maybe the diminutive Steve Johnston will emerge. Or Lamar Murphy, who was robbed against Gonzalez last August. Or slick "Sugar" Shane Mosley. Or the division's hardest hitter, Leavander Johnson. Just don't look for unproven IBF champion Philip Holiday to dominate. WBA champion Orzubek Nazarov, on the other hand, is legit, but how many people have seen the Japan-based southpaw fight?

Miguel A. Gonzalez sticks Marty Jakubowski

LIGHTWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Leavander Johnson

Best Boxer
Shane Mosley

Most Protected
Joel Perez

Is He *Still* Around?
Lester Ellis

Matchmaker's Dream
Miguel A. Gonzalez-Orzubek Nazarov

Best-Kept Secret
Shane Mosley

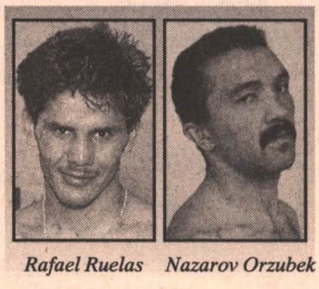
Deserves A Title Shot
Steve Johnston

Most Fun To Watch
Ivan Robinson

On The Way Down
Rafael Ruelas

Underrated
Orzubek Nazarov

Best Fight In 1995
Miguel A. Gonzalez W 12 Lamar Murphy



Rafael Ruelas *Nazarov Orzubek*

After losses to De La Hoya and George Scott, Rafael Ruelas is at least temporarily out of the mix. Ivan Robinson makes his fights more difficult than they have to be, which is good for the fans, but bad for his future. Maybe Azumah Nelson will inject some excitement. Immediately after regaining the WBC super featherweight title, Nelson spoke of trying for the lightweight crown. Without Pernell Whitaker around to stop him, he's a good bet to become a triple-crown champion.

Think About It: For the Ruelases, 1995 featured a remarkable—and disastrous—turnaround. In January, Rafael and Gabe became the first brothers to defend world titles on the same card. IBF lightweight champ Rafael subsequently lost the title to De La Hoya, and then was upset by Scott. As for WBC super featherweight champ Gabe, he suffered through the Jimmy Garcia tragedy, then lost the title to Nelson. Things can only get better.

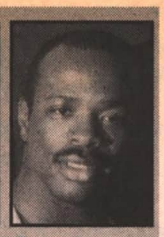
JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

In December, Arturo Gatti won a close decision over defending IBF champion Tracy Patterson. Maybe Gatti will

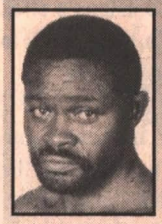
grow into the star we thought Jesse James Leija, Gabe Ruelas, or Ed Hopson were going to be. Gatti seems a prime candidate; he's young, handsome, tough, and arguably the division's hardest hitter. One other thing: HBO likes him.

At 37, WBC champion Azumah Nelson, whose triumphant return eliminated Ruelas from consideration, has no interest in defending the title. Look for him to shoot for the 135-pound crown. The WBA champion, Yong Soo Choi, is exciting, but he'll surely take the title to his native South Korea. There are, however, other potential stars. Robert Garcia, who has been slowed by a change of managers, showed dramatic improvement in '95. Reggie Tuur deserves further

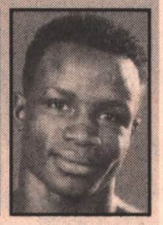
Arturo Gatti



Tracy Patterson



Azumah Nelson



Reggie Tuur

TV exposure. And the Eddie Futch-trained Justin Juuko and France's Julien Lorcy are prospects who are ready to break through.

Jeff Fenech, on the other hand, broke through long ago. "The White Tyson" is back, and it won't be long before he again challenges for his fourth world title. Gatti-Fenech—now *that* sounds like a fight that could make a star.

Think About It: Last year we told you that with such long-reigning champions as Julio Cesar Chavez, Nelson, Brian Mitchell, John-John Molina, and Genaro Hernandez, the 130-pound division had been the most stable in boxing. Well, Hopson, who replaced Molina as IBF king, lost in his first defense, as did his conqueror, Patterson. The 37-year-old Nelson, who regained the WBC title in December, is near the end. And we can't be sure about WBA boss Choi, who followed Hernandez.

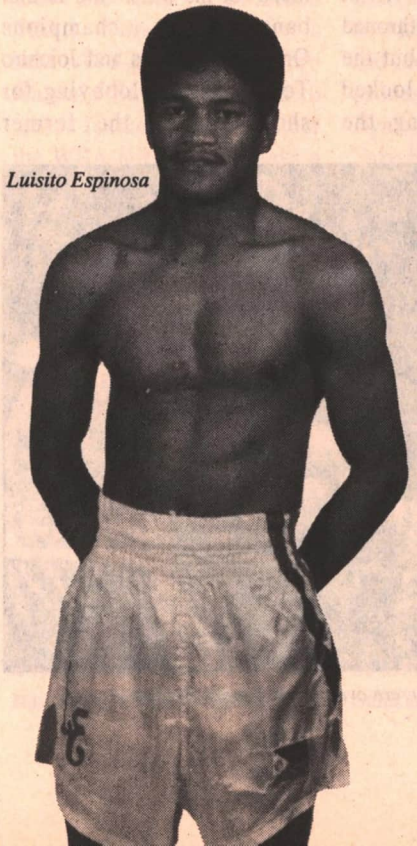
FEATHERWEIGHTS

IBF champion Tom Johnson is steady, but rarely spectacular. He keeps winning, but doesn't insult his opponents, shave messages into his head, or appear in the police blotter. Such titlists are lost in this tabloid world. Maybe that's why you haven't seen Johnson in big-money bouts on pay-per-view. Or maybe it's because he hasn't had the benefit of a natural rivalry. (Too bad Kevin Kelley's on the slide.) Regardless, boxing's best featherweight continues to fight in relative obscurity.

That's never been the case with Naseem Hamed, who is to Johnson as Howard Stern is to Garrison Keillor. The charismatic Englishman hasn't yet beaten the division's best, but he shines like a future great. Hamed's kayo of the capable Steve Robinson proved he can handle 126-pounders. But he's likely to soon drop back down to junior feather.

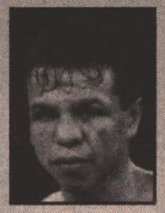
WBA champion Eloy Rojas and Colombia's Ever Beleno are the division's hardest hitters. WBC champion Luisito Espinosa seems a short-term proposition, as were Manuel Medina and Alejandro Gonzalez. Watch out for the Mexican hook to the liver of Cesar Soto, as well as the quick feet of Floridians David Santos and the vastly improved Derrick Gainer.

Think About It: There were four different WBC featherweight champions in 1995: Kelley, Gonzalez, Medina, and



Luisito Espinosa

Alejandro Gonzalez



Manuel Medina

Kevin Kelley

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Arturo Gatti

Best Boxer
Azumah Nelson

Most Protected
Djamel Lifa

Is He *Still* Around?
Harold Petty

Matchmaker's Dream
Azumah Nelson-Arturo Gatti

Best-Kept Secret
Julien Lorcy

Deserves A Title Shot
Robert Garcia

Most Fun To Watch
Jeff Fenech

On The Way Down
Ed Hopson

Underrated
Justin Juuko

Best Fight In 1995
Reggie Tuur KO 11
Carlos Mendoza

FEATHERWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Eloy Rojas

Best Boxer
Tom Johnson

Most Protected
Ever Beleno

Is He *Still* Around?
Louie Espinoza

Matchmaker's Dream
Tom Johnson-Eloy Rojas

Best-Kept Secret
David Santos

Deserves A Title Shot
Cesar Soto

Most Fun To Watch
Naseem Hamed

On The Way Down
Tony Green

Underrated
Chico Castillo

Best Fight In 1995
Alejandro Gonzalez KO 10
Kevin Kelley

Espinosa. You might think the title changed hands in every fight, but Gonzalez squeezed in two successful defenses, vs. Louie Espinoza and Tony Green. The instability was unexpected; both Kelley and Gonzalez were included on many pound-for-pound lists at the time of their respective losses.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

If Mexico's Marco Antonio Barrera is as good as he looked in 1995, Wilfredo Gomez will soon have to share the title of best 122-pounder in history, if not relinquish it entirely. As we went to press, Barrera was scheduled to face one of this weight's kingpins, former champion Kennedy McKinney. That bout will determine much of the division's immediate future.

If Naseem Hamed drops back down from featherweight, this talent-rich class just might explode. WBA champion Antonio Cermeno's defense against veteran Jesus Salud suggests the Venezuelan is better than expected. IBF titlist Vuyani Bungu, who dethroned McKinney, is steady, but the South African hasn't looked special since winning the crown. Ageless WBC king Daniel Zaragoza continues to bleed for his wins. And former bantamweight champions Orlando Canizales and Joichiro Tatsuyoshi are lobbying for shots, though the former appears slightly worn and the latter has undergone surgery for a detached retina. (As we went to press, Zaragoza was scheduled to defend against Tatsuyoshi.)

The best youngsters: Mexicans Erik Morales and Enrique Sanchez and Louisiana's slick Aristead Clayton, who needs to become more aggressive.

Think About It: WBC super bantamweight champion Zaragoza will never make the hall of fame, but maybe there should be a special wing in Canastota for road warriors. Twenty-five of the southpaw's first 29 pro bouts were held in his native Mexico, but not one of his 17 world title fights, all of the WBC variety, has occurred in his homeland. That's strange, especially when you consider that the WBC is based in Mexico.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Marco Antonio Barrera

Best Boxer
Hector Acero-Sanchez

Most Protected
Pablo Osuna

Is He *Still* Around?
Fabrice Benichou

Matchmaker's Dream
Marco A. Barrera-Naseem Hamed

Best-Kept Secret
Enrique Sanchez

Deserves A Title Shot
Junior Jones

Most Fun To Watch
Marco Antonio Barrera

On The Way Down
Julio Gervacio

Underrated
Welcome Ncita

Best Fight In 1995
M.A. Barrera W 12 Agapito Sanchez

BANTAMWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Nana Konadu

Best Boxer
Ancee Gedeon

Most Protected
Paulie Ayala

Is He *Still* Around?
Greg Richardson

Matchmaker's Dream
Wayne McCullough-Danny Romero

Best-Kept Secret
Cruz Carbajal

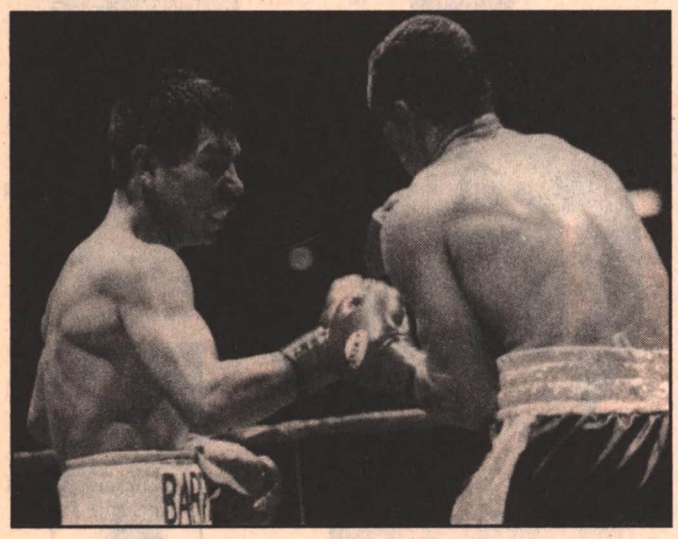
Deserves A Title Shot
Ancee Gedeon

Most Fun To Watch
Wayne McCullough

On The Way Down
Victor Rabanales

Underrated
Jorge Julio

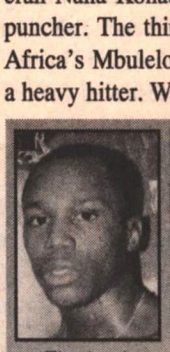
Best Fight In 1995
Wayne McCullough W 12 Yasuei Yakushiji



Marco A. Barrera overpowers Daniel Jimenez

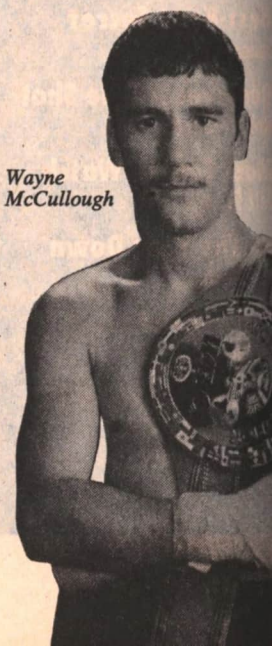
BANTAMWEIGHTS

WBC champion Wayn McCullough is the re thing. Consider: He had a extensive amateur backgroun fighting in the 1988 and 199 Olympics, and winning a silv medal in Barcelona; he won t title on the road; he throw more punches than anyone el in the game; and he's beate three world champions or fo mer champions (Victo Rabanales, Fabrice Benicho and Yasuei Yakushiji), and scheduled to face a fourth (Jo Luis Bueno). Unfortunatel "The Pocket Rocket" won't b a bantamweight for long. T WBA champion, Ghanaian ve eran Nana Konadu, is a terrif puncher. The third titlist, Sou Africa's Mbulelo Botile, is al a heavy hitter. We won't be su



Tim Austin *Paulie Ayal*

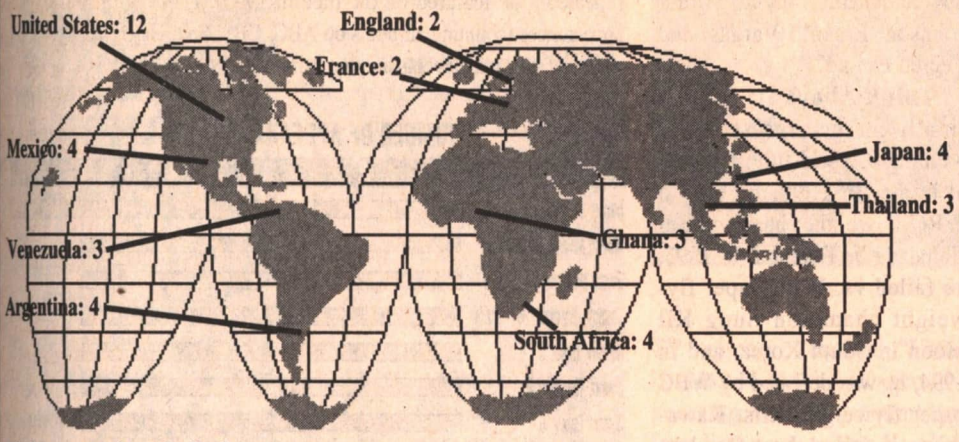
Ancee Gedeon



Wayne McCullough

THE CHAMPS BY COUNTRIES

The USA continues to lead all nations in the championship roll call, albeit with six less champions than last year. (Champions as of February 1, 1996.)



Eight countries tied with 1:

- Australia
- Germany
- Nicaragua
- N. Ireland
- Panama
- Philippines
- Puerto Rico
- South Korea

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Danny Romero

Best Boxer
Hiroshi Kawashima

Most Protected
Gerry Penalosa

Is He *Still* Around?
Rolando Bohol

Matchmaker's Dream
Johnny Tapia-Danny Romero

Best-Kept Secret
Satoshi Iida

Deserves A Title Shot
Arthur Johnson

Most Fun To Watch
Johnny Tapia

On The Way Down
Francisco Tejedor

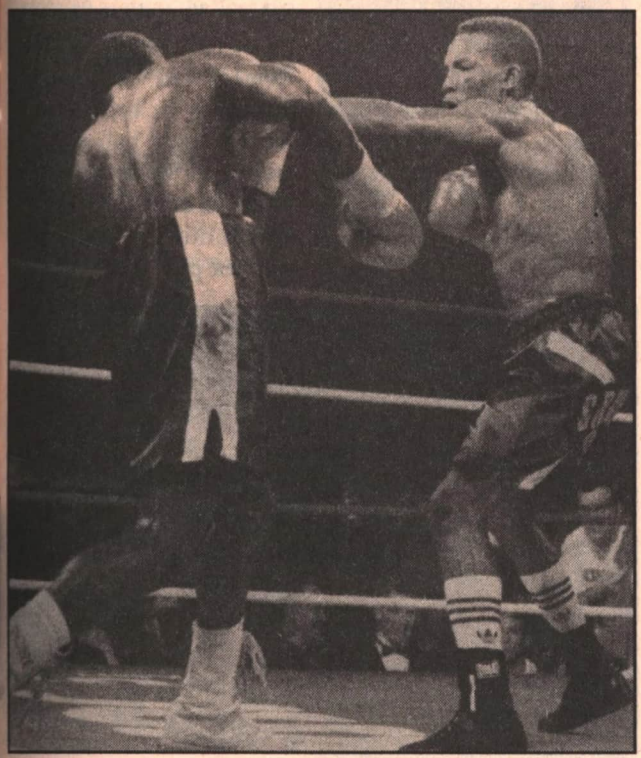
Underrated
Ratanachai Sor Vorapin

Best Fight In 1995
Willy Salazar KO 7 Danny Romero

prised, however, if Konadu and Botile are dethroned before the year is out.

Our favorite contender is Ancee Gedeon, who was all but homeless when he upset Sergio Reyes. Look for the Haitian to soon take Botile's title. Texan Paulie Ayala is being moved smartly. Don't forget Colombia's Jorge Julio, who is likely to regain the title. Tim Austin, a 1992 Olympian, is ready to blossom, and it won't be long before the arrival of Danny Romero.

Think About It: Last year we pointed out that Mexico's domination of this division was apparently over. All three major world titles changed hands in '95—and still no Mexican titlists. Worse yet, Mexico's best 118-pounder, Marco Antonio Barrera, jumped to junior featherweight. Neither the WBA nor the IBF ranks a single Mexican, and the WBC's highest-rated Mexicans are faded war horse Rabanales and Joel Luna Zarate, whose surname serves as a reminder of the red-white-and-green's glory days at 118 pounds.



Mbulelo Botile outpoints Sam Stewart

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Okay, so it now looks as if Danny Romero is never going to fight Johnny Tapia. Shame on you, Danny. Romero's father and chief handler, Danny Sr., maintains his son, a growing star, doesn't "need" Albuquerque rival Tapia. We presume Romero didn't need Willy Salazar, either. Last September, Salazar, a veteran with 21 losses, upset Romero and broke his eye socket in the process, clouding "Kid Dynamite's" future. The lesson: Take big fights when they present themselves. Romero, the IBF flyweight champion, can no longer make 112 pounds. He'll either move to junior bantam or jump all the way to bantamweight.

Meanwhile, Tapia remains one of the best TV fighters in the game. He's good, but not good enough to blow anybody out. WBC champion Hiroshi Kawashima is good, too, and can punch. The WBA titlist, Venezuela's Alimi Goitia, is also a banger. The same cannot be said of IBF champion Carlos Salazar, who won a world title

FLYWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Yuri Arbachakov

Best Boxer
Saen Sor Ploenchit

Most Protected
Alexander Mahmutov

Is He *Still* Around?
Kiki Rojas

Matchmaker's Dream
Yuri Arbachakov-Saen Sor Ploenchit

Best-Kept Secret
Daniel Ward

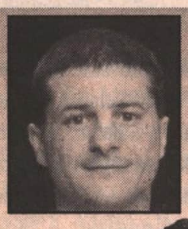
Deserves A Title Shot
Mark Johnson

Most Fun To Watch
Mark Johnson

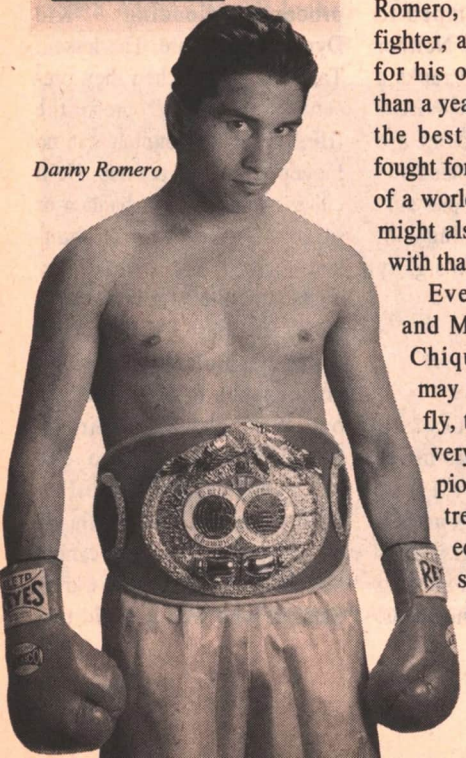
On The Way Down
Jose Quirino

Underrated
Alejandro Montiel

Best Fight In 1995
Danny Romero W 12 Francisco Tejedor



Johnny Tapia



Danny Romero

in his fourth try. Don't expect the Argentina southpaw to keep the belt through '96.

There aren't too many contenders to get excited about, but how about title tries for Arthur Johnson, Ricardo Vargas, and Cecilio Espino?

Think About It: Salazar finally learned the secret to winning a world title: fighting at home. In 1990, he lost to WBC flyweight champion Sot Chitalada in Thailand. In 1993, he failed vs. WBC super flyweight champion Sung Kil Moon in South Korea, and in 1994, he was defeated by WBC super flyweight titlist Kawashima in Japan. Last October, Salazar stayed home, taking on IBF 115-pound champion Harold Grey in Mar Del Plata, Argentina. He won a split decision. Think he would've gotten the nod on the road?

FLYWEIGHT

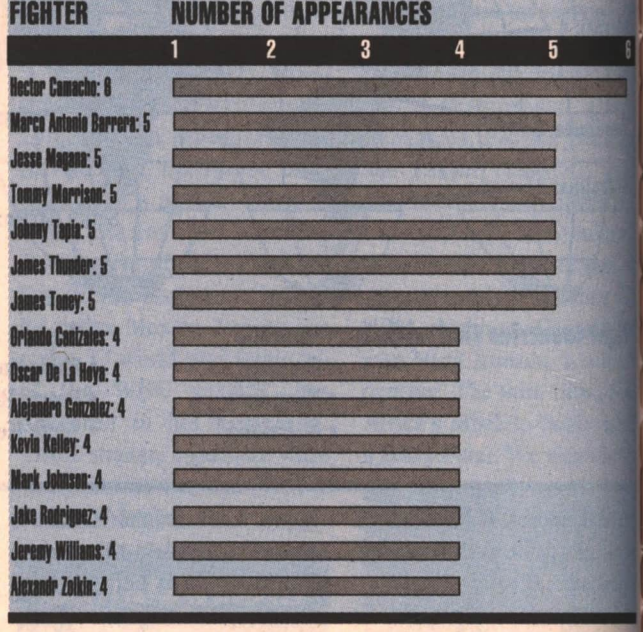
For American fans, Danny Romero, the first red-white-and-blue flyweight champion since Midget Wolgast in 1935, was particularly refreshing. Now that Romero is moving up, look for Washington, D.C.'s Mark Johnson to succeed him. Johnson can't punch like Romero, but he's an all-action fighter, and he's been waiting for his opportunity for more than a year. Johnson is probably the best fighter who hasn't fought for at least some version of a world title. Then again, he might also be the *only* fighter with that distinction.

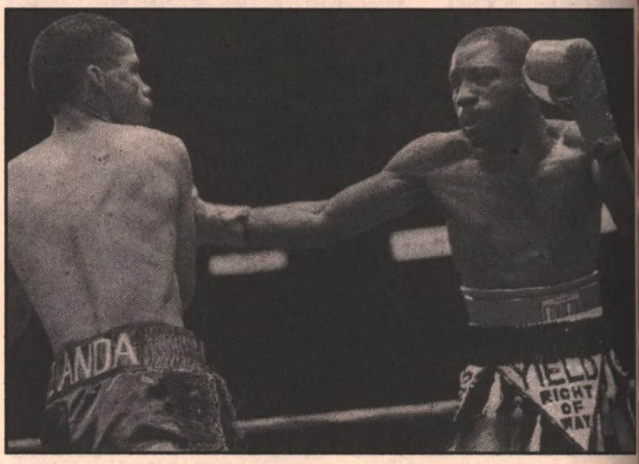
Even without Romero, and Michael Carbajal and Chiquita Gonzalez, who may *never* rise from junior fly, the 112-pound class is very strong. WBC champion Yuri Arbachakov, a tremendous right-handed puncher, has cracked some pound-for-pound lists, and unbeaten WBA titlist Saen Sow Ploenchit is a master boxer who has recently added some pop to his punch. There aren't a lot of interesting contenders, though consistent veterans Alberto Jimenez, Leo Gamez, and Hiroki Ioka remain title threats.

Think About It: Willy Salazar's non-title victory over then-IBF flyweight champion Romero was an obvious choice for Upset of the Year. After all, Salazar had almost as many losses (21) as the undefeated Romero had wins (25). But Salazar is far better than his record would indicate. He's reigned as Mexican flyweight champion and NABF junior flyweight titlist, and he's twice stopped perennial contender

BOXING'S TV WARRIORS

Should Jake Rodriguez fight on television more often than Pernell Whitaker? Well, he did in the year gone by. Who were the fighters to repeatedly be featured on the tube in 1995? Those with four or more appearances (counting all bouts on ABC, CBS, Fox, HBO, Showtime, pay-per-view, and main events only on Prime, ESPN, and USA):





Mark Johnson mows down Josue Camacho

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Michael Carbajal

Best Boxer
Chiquita Gonzalez

Most Protected
Mauricio Pastrana

Is He *Still* Around?
Leo Gamez

Matchmaker's Dream
Saman Sorjaturong-
Chiquita Gonzalez II

Best-Kept Secret
Panien Poontarat

Deserves A Title Shot
Eric Griffin

Most Fun To Watch
Carlos Murillo

On The Way Down
Javier Varguez

Underrated
Melchor Cob Castro

Best Fight In 1995
Saman Sorjaturong KO 7
Chiquita Gonzalez

Isaias Zamudio. But after his unexpected victory, he lost to Romero's arch-rival, Johnny Tapia. One miracle a year is his limit.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHT

In case you haven't noticed, two of the last three Fights of the Year, Michael Carbajal KO 7 Chiquita Gonzalez in 1993, and Saman Sorjaturong KO 7 Gonzalez in 1995, were 108-pound contests. (Take that, heavyweights!) Interestingly, Carbajal, Gonzalez, and Sorjaturong remain the division's key fighters, the first two because of their marquee value and the third because he holds the WBC title. Carbajal needs a title because he's begun to disappear. Look for him to soon challenge for the vacant IBF crown. Chiquita needs a rematch with Sorjaturong, whom he was easily defeating before getting kayoed. And Sorjaturong needs to stay away from WBC strawweight champion Ricardo Lopez, who, in 1993, knocked him out in two rounds.

If the newly crowned WBA champion, Carlos Murillo, is as good as he looked against Hi Yong Choi, he can beat anyone. Former titlist Melchor Cob Castro just can't get past Chiquita. And 1992 Olympian Eric Griffin is title material—if he learns to box more and brawl less.

Think About It: Has Carbajal fallen off the face of the earth, or does it just seem that way? In 1993 and '94, six of the former junior flyweight champion's seven bouts were televised, including five on pay-per-view. In 1995, Carbajal fought six times—without *any* TV exposure. You think "Little Hands Of Stone" is second-guessing himself for jumping from Bob Arum to Don King?

STRAWWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Nene Sanchez

Best Boxer
Ricardo Lopez

Most Protected
Ala Villamor

Is He *Still* Around?
Manny Melchor

Matchmaker's Dream
Ricardo Lopez-
Ratanapol Sor Vorapin

Best-Kept Secret
Rosendo Alvarez

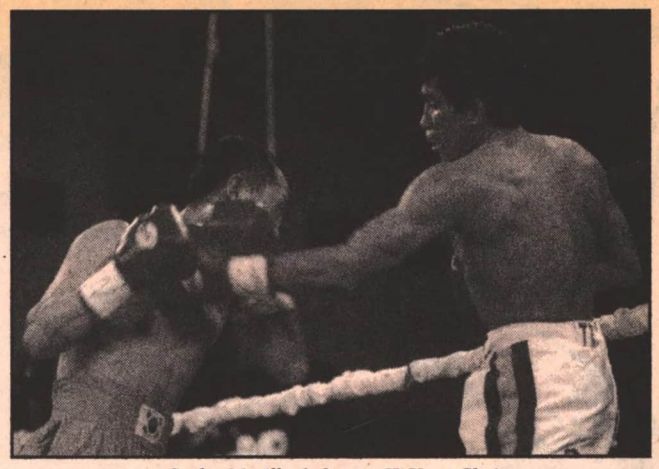
Deserves A Title Shot
Joma Gamboa

Most Fun To Watch
Ratanapol Sor Vorapin

On The Way Down
Nico Thomas

Underrated
Osvaldo Guerrero

Best Fight In 1995
Nene Sanchez W 12
Rafael Orozco



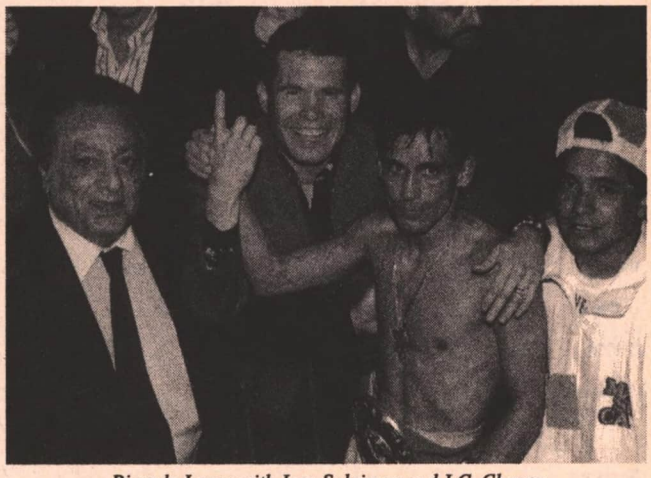
Carlos Murillo dethrones Hi Yong Choi

STRAWWEIGHTS

For the first time since 1993, there was a title change at this weight; in December, Nicaragua's unbeaten Rosendo Alvarez dethroned WBA champion Chana Porpaoin. That aside, it was the same old same old, with WBC champion and pound-for-pound entrant Ricardo Lopez and power-punching (yes, strawweights can hit, too) IBF king Ratanapol Sor Vorapin keeping their crowns. Lopez defended in April, then underwent surgery on both hands. His future is in doubt, which is a shame, because he's never given himself the opportunity to flaunt his considerable skills outside this division. Can a champion who fights only at strawweight be considered an all-time great? Lopez has never been beaten as an amateur or pro, and we'll leave it at that.

A couple of fighters to watch: The Philippines' Joma Gamboa and Jerry Pahayahay, and Mexico's Oswaldo Guerrero.

Think About It: There's no denying Lopez ranks with the best fighters in the world, but it's time to acknowledge the reign of Sor Vorapin, who has made 11 defenses in three years. Sor Vorapin, 24-2-1 (19), has kayoed 10 of his 11 challengers, a sensational record at any weight. A note to the USA Network: Ratings be damned! We'd rather watch a tape of Sor Vorapin than a live fight of Tony Tubbs. ■



Ricardo Lopez with Jose Sulaiman and J.C. Chavez

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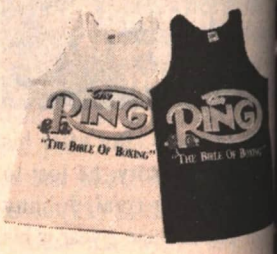

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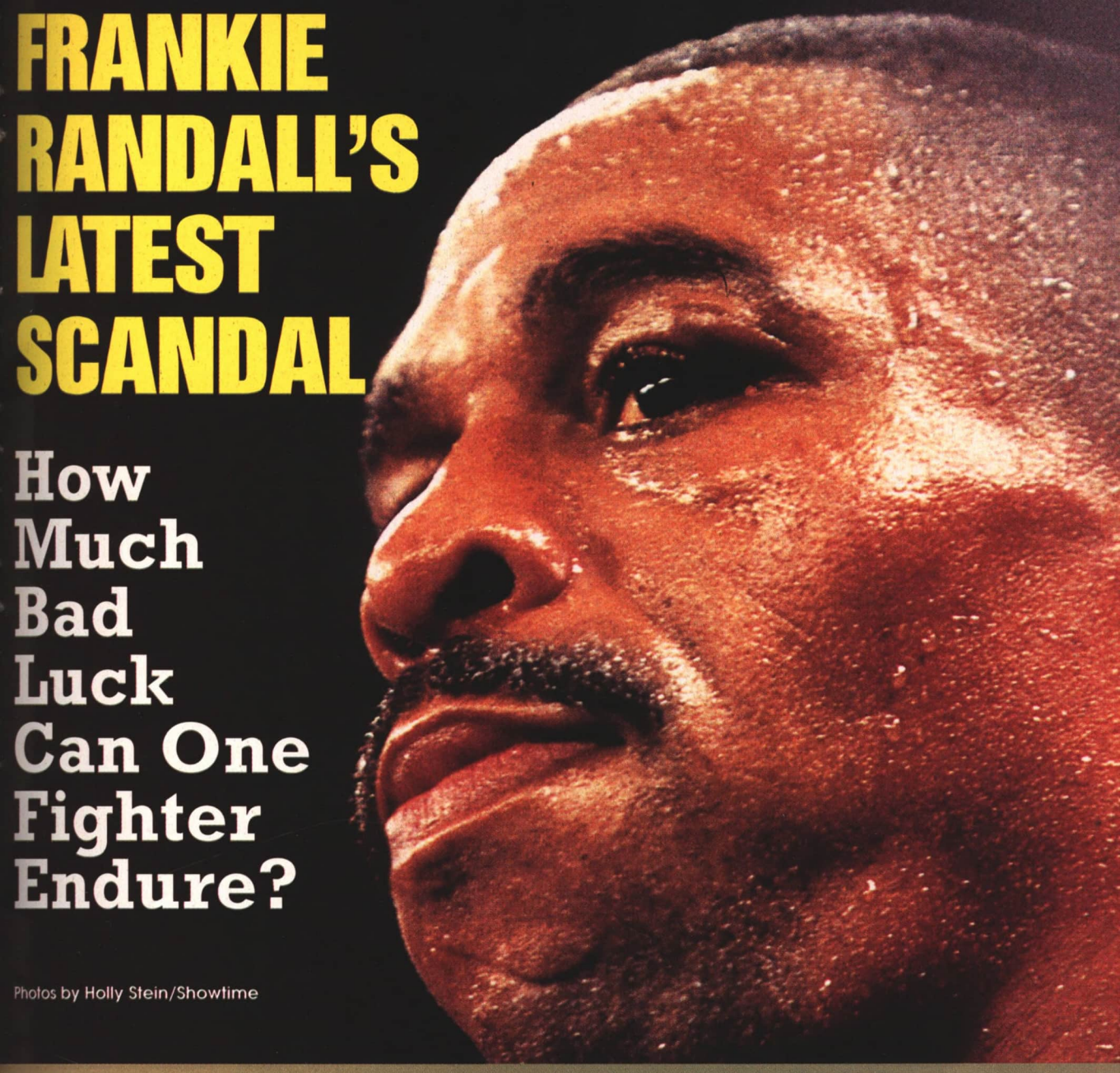
FRANKIE RANDALL'S LATEST SCANDAL

How Much Bad Luck Can One Fighter Endure?



Photos by Holly Stein/Showtime

By Ken Knox

If you believe that the stars rule your fate, you might think that Frankie Randall was born under a bad sign. Born on September 25, 1961, Randall is a Mars-in-Libra person. Among other things, the stars say of people with that birthday: "You have to battle for everything you get. Nothing comes easy. If it does, it soon disappears or is destroyed. You often feel cheated by a cruel fate."

Said Peyton Sher, Randall's adviser and former co-manager, "It seems that the cards always get stacked against Frankie. He's had to deal with adversity his entire career. He was not the shining star. He was the kind of guy who was basically the underdog all the time."

As to Randall's luck inside the ring, Sher said, "It's like that cartoon where the guy is always walking under a rain cloud, and you never know when the cloudburst is going to come."

In today's world of multiple sanctioning bodies and weight divisions, Randall's blue-collar, 11-year rise to the top of his profession recalls an era when world-class fighters got title shots the old-fashioned way: by earning them. Randall's road to the title was long and winding. He rolled to a record of 41-2-1, including wins over Freddie Pendleton and Sammy Fuentes, before spending 22 months in prison for selling cocaine. He resumed his career and racked up another eight wins before finally getting a shot at the WBC 140-pound title held by Julio Cesar Chavez. Randall wasn't supposed to win, but in a stunning upset, he floored Chavez and took the title by split decision.

Randall was ecstatic, but his joy turned

Randall and Coggi, who both scored knockdowns in their first fight, came out winging, with the Argentine the faster starter. Coggi's early edge turned out to be critical.

naysayers.

Said Sher, "In the 140-pound division, there was nothing there, particularly in the WBA, that was going to warrant a real good fight for him. I think that Frankie was content to take Coggi on again to establish himself with a knockout, that whatever people thought of his behavior prior to the fight in France, this was the real Frankie Randall who was going to show his stuff."

When Randall entered the ring in front of a packed house at the Miami Jai-Alai Fronton on January 13, he appeared to be

to heartbreak when he lost the rematch less than four months later. It was the *way* he lost that made it so horrible: He was done in by the sometimes inscrutable rules of the alphabet soup organizations. It appeared Randall was on his way to again defeating Chavez when their heads crashed late in the eighth round. Chavez sustained a nasty gash on his forehead and appeared to quit with two seconds remaining in the round. Instead of awarding Randall a TKO win, WBC officials decided to enforce the butt rules and go to the cards. The rules mandated that Randall lose a point for the butt, even though it had been accidental. As a direct result, Chavez regained the title by split decision. Randall was crushed, and it can be argued that he still hasn't recovered.

Partial redemption came four months later, when Randall met Juan Coggi for the WBA's version of the title. Randall was knocked down once, but he thrice floored Coggi and captured the crown by unanimous decision.

Randall closed out 1994 by stopping Rodney Moore in seven rounds, but in 1995, the stars weren't kind. Randall's only fight was an uninspired decision over rugged Jose Barboza in Lyon, France. Away from the ring, Dr. Dan Hale, his close friend and former co-manager, was imprisoned for racketeering, mail fraud, and conspiracy, Randall was sued for child support, and rumors of alcohol and drug abuse swirled. When it was announced he was going to meet Coggi again, boxing observers were anxious to see whether Randall was on the decline. The champion saw it as an opportunity to silence the

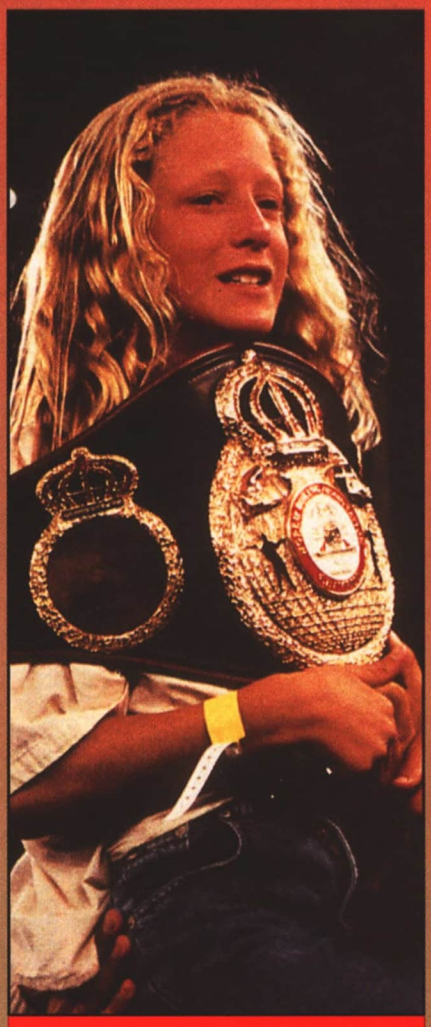
After absorbing a butt to the cheek, Coggi slumped to the canvas (above). A few minutes later, he was taken from the arena on a stretcher (below) and hospitalized.

in excellent shape. He had, said his wife Janice, been able to shake off all the rumors. Randall, 140, Fort Pierce, Florida, established his jab from the opening bell against the southpaw. Having been inactive for 248 days, the 34-year-old Coggi, 140, Brandsen, Argentina, loaded up early on. He missed with his initial looping, left-handed offerings, but began to find the range as the round progressed. Coggi won the round on two of the cards, with the third judge calling it even. When the bell sounded, Coggi's handlers vehemently protested to referee Bill Connors (USA) for not having penalized Randall for butting.

In the second, Coggi alternately popped Randall with left-handed bolo punches and complained to Connors about headbutts. But Randall finished the round strongly, scoring with a handful of rights to Coggi's head. The champion's momentum continued into the third, as he landed rights that drove Coggi to the ropes. Coggi escaped, then responded with effective counter lefts. Again featuring a right-hand attack, Randall was retaking the advantage when his feet got tangled up with Coggi's and he lost his balance. As Randall's bad luck would have it, Coggi fortuitously landed a glancing blow under the champion's right arm, and he went down. Randall protested that it was a slip, but Connors ruled a knockdown and "The Surgeon" lost the round 10-8 on all three cards. No one knew it at the time, of course, but the point he lost due to the knockdown would cost him the title.

The action increased a notch in the fourth, with Randall, 34, keeping Coggi on the defensive with effective jabs and straight rights to the head. It seemed the champion was zeroing for a knockdown.

Less than a minute had expired in the fifth when the fighters stepped toward each other. As they did, their heads collided. Randall, 52-4-1 (40), appeared okay, but Coggi, 70-3-2 (42), winced and staggered to the ropes. He walked unsteadily to his corner, where he sat, and then lay down, with his head propped against the bottom rope. Connors tried to coax Coggi into continuing ("He's not hurt," he was reported to have said), but to no avail. Debris flew into the ring as the fight was stopped and ringside physicians and paramedics attended to Coggi, who complained of



Coggi's health didn't seem to be much of a concern to his son, Martin, who celebrated after the decision was announced.

dizziness. He was placed onto a stretcher and taken from the ring to nearby Jackson Memorial Hospital, where he underwent an MRI and other medical examinations.

According to WBA rules, if an accidental butt causes a bout to be stopped after four rounds, the outcome is determined by the cards. All three judges had Coggi ahead by one point, with Fernando Viso (Venezuela) and Hector Hernandez (Mexico) scoring 39-38 and Al Wilensky (USA) 38-37. As the technical decision was announced, Randall remained expressionless. Seconds later, he took a deep breath as he realized fate had once again turned its back on him.

Infuriated, Randall said, "[Coggi] turned around, walked back to his corner, and somebody told him to get down. This guy here is a chicken. I think this was a classic case of a guy laying down. He knew he was going to be knocked out, so he quit.

"He degraded me and he degraded the public."

Indeed, many ringsiders believed Coggi had read Luis Santana's book, *How To Win A World Title Without Really Trying*. "The man faked it," said Sher. "The man in no way was rendered unconscious, no way he was cut or seriously hurt by the accidental butt. There was no reason in the world why he couldn't have continued. I think [Coggi's] corner had a pretty good idea of ... what the score might have been, and I think they told him to get down, to stay down, and take a chance that they were ahead on the cards. I think they knew in another round or two Coggi was going to get knocked out. They gambled and won."

Dr. Camille Denis, who examined Coggi in the ring, said the fighter had been coherent and "agitated when he answered me because he wanted to continue to fight." It had appeared that Coggi's desire to continue was evident only after the fight had been stopped and he had been securely restrained on a stretcher. In fact, he was struggling against the restraining straps as he was taken out of the building.

Coggi was hospitalized for evaluation and observation. After he was removed from the arena, his handlers and family celebrated the decision in the ring, adding to the bizarre scene.

"His manager, his trainer, even his son, they were clapping their hands and celebrating in the ring," said Randall. "They should've been going to the hospital with him. It disgusted me."

Coggi walked out of the hospital later that morning with a clean bill of health—and the WBA title.

"Those who doubt Coggi or who criticize him do not know that he is full of dignity," Osvaldo Rivero, the Argentine's promoter, told *Nuevo Herald*, a Miami-based Spanish-language daily newspaper.

So what does the future hold for the 34-year-old Randall, who seems jinxed? Two weeks after the fight, he told THE RING that both his manager, Carl King, and his trainer, Aaron Snowell, had indicated a rematch with Coggi was going to be scheduled for the Mike Tyson-Frank Bruno undercard in Las Vegas on March 16. But Rivero told *Nuevo Herald*, "Now Coggi is going to

(Continued on page 56)

Photos by Doug Pensinger/Allsport

THE RESURGENT TIM WITHERSPOON

The 38-Year-Old Heavyweight Nobody Wants To Fight

By Steve Farhood

It's enough to give a guy a complex ...When the local barber sees Tim Witherspoon approaching his storefront, you think he quickly flips over the "Open" sign to "Closed," takes the phone off the hook, and hides behind the hair dryers?

When Spoon asks for a table at his favorite soul-food restaurant, you suppose he's told, "Sorry, but we don't serve *your kind* in here"?

When Spoon goes to the movies, does the ticket-taker tell him the projector just broke down?

If Spoon wanted to sign up for the Army, would the recruiter look him in the eye and say, "Uncle Sam wants you! Well, maybe not *you*, but certainly the guy *next* to you"?

Such would be the case if Spoon's personal life paralleled his professional life. That's because at the age of 38, "Terrible Tim" has become the heavyweight no one wants to fight. Witherspoon is good, a fact no one has had reason to doubt since 1983, when he almost upset Larry Holmes. Now, for the first time in years, he's also focused

(Continued on page 56)

Witherspoon reestablished himself as a top-10 heavyweight by scoring a convincing decision over cruiserweight champion Al Cole at Madison Square Garden. Two of the judges scored the bout a shutout.

Fascination And Frustration

WHY ROY JONES IS A BOXING FAN'S DILEMMA

By Steve Farhood

A superstar has to be a lot of things to a lot of people, and to boxing fans, Roy Jones has become both fascinating and frustrating. Forget Don King, the WBA, and the status of Rock Newman's relationship with Time Warner. We're into fighters and fights. As a fighter, Jones has raced past *exciting* and is fast-approaching *compelling*. Only his fights are slowing him down.

What does it say about the career of this ring genius that every time he performs, we wonder just how good he might be—even though we just saw how good he is? But there's a big difference between establishing greatness and becoming an all-time great. It is opportunity that bridges the gap, and while no fault of his own, Jones finds himself sorely lacking. In other words, what might ultimately separate him from Sugar Ray Leonard will not be the jolt in his jab or the pop in his punch, but rather Thomas Hearns, Roberto Duran, and Marvin Hagler.

On January 12 at Madison Square Garden, a crowd of 11,484 braved New York City's second snowstorm in five days to watch IBF super middleweight champion Jones dazzle Merqui Sosa in a non-title bout. Presented with a bigger opponent who was known for his strength and durability, Jones did what he knew we thought he couldn't do: He destroyed the Dominican in less than two rounds.

"Last week I was reading a boxing magazine," Jones said, referring to the December 1995 issue of THE RING, "and they said Merqui Sosa has the best chin in boxing. Well, I put that chin on the mat. You think I can punch?"

Chirped junior featherweight Kennedy McKinney from the side of the room, "Just goes to show you, Superman *is* black."

Who, then, is to play the part of Lex Luther? Jones' mastery of Sosa, as fascinating as it was, emphasized our frustration: There's no one for him to fight. Even the most obvious candidate, WBC super middleweight champion Nigel Benn, would be overmatched. We challenge you to scan the ratings at 168 and 175 pounds and find a single champion or contender worthy of Jones' immense talents. Could it be that he has come along at the wrong time, or at least the wrong weight?

"I want to fight people like James Toney, who mouth off and think they're bad," Jones said after stopping Sosa. Mouth off? At this point, anyone who as much as stares Jones down is not only stupid, but foolish, too. At the weigh-in, Jones and his opponent locked eyes for two full minutes. Jones refused to back down, and then carried the same attitude into the ring, turning Merqui Sosa into *Murky So-so.*

Photos by Doug Pensinger/Allsport

It was frustrating that Roy Jones displayed his incredible skills for only two rounds against Merqui Sosa. But those two rounds were nonetheless fascinating.

Perhaps because no one picked Sosa to win, the prefight stories focused on 1) Jones' threats to put down his boxing gloves and pick up a basketball, 2) his decision to skip the final press conference in New York, and 3) his ego, which, according to some, is growing even faster than his reputation.

The hoopla over the hoops is harmless. Jones, a point guard, can turn into the Isaiah Thomas of the '90s, but he's always going to make more money hanging in the ring than on the rim. One question, though: If you seem bored by your upcoming fights, Roy, why should your fans feel any other way?

As for Jones' decision to stretch his stay in the warm confines of his hometown of Pensacola, Florida, he should've followed the lead of Oscar De La Hoya, who dutifully worked the Big Apple media before his December date at the Garden with Jesse James Leija. "Pay me and I will perform," was Jones' mantra after he dispatched of Sosa. He needs to be reminded that he's paid millions of dollars to perform *and* promote. So it was cold in New York? Jones should've been there a week before the fight, even if the thought of dressing in down feathers and thermal underwear repulsed him more than a day of hanging at the mall with James Toney.

When Sosa backed to the ropes, Jones unleashed a multipunch flurry that convinced referee Ken Zimmer to call a halt. Sosa objected to the stoppage, but he seemed to have little chance of victory.

ROY JONES: A MATCHMAKER'S VIEW

We asked Top Rank matchmaker Ron Katz, who is unaffiliated with Roy Jones, to list the five bouts he'd try to make for the unbeaten IBF super middleweight champion.

Roy Jones vs. Nigel Benn: "In England. Benn is the second-best fighter in the super middleweight division, and he's always in exciting fights. I'd like to see what would happen if he hit Jones on the chin."

Roy Jones vs. Henry Maske: "Maske is an awkward, slick southpaw. I'd like to see the fight in Germany, which would make for the most difficult conditions possible for Jones."

Roy Jones vs. James Toney: "At cruiserweight. I truly believe Jones fought a Toney who had been weakened by weight loss and dehydration. At a more comfortable weight, Toney would present a greater challenge. And when you consider how everyone else has done with Jones, Toney didn't fare so badly."

Roy Jones vs. Jeremy Williams: "Jeremy is a bulked-up light heavyweight. It would be interesting to see if Jones could carry his power against a small heavyweight, whether his chin would hold up, and whether his speed would diminish."

Roy Jones vs. Tommy Morrison: "Unlike Jeremy Williams, Morrison is a legitimate heavyweight. He's a big banger with no chin. It would be a fascinating shootout."

And, finally, for a great fighter, an oversized ego is a requisite, not a crime. Jones is honest about himself and everyone else. That's part of his charm, but if he's not careful, it can also serve to tarnish his image. And once you've signed with Nike, image is everything.

***

How savagely impressive was Jones against Sosa? After the bout, Michael Katz, the respected boxing writer of the New York *Daily News*, decided Jones might be the best fighter since Sugar Ray Robinson. We'll reserve such judgment, at least until Jones upgrades the quality of his opposition. But for even the most jaded of scribes, it was difficult not to marvel at his explosion of speed and power. With Whitaker, we expect 12 rounds of razzle, dazzle, and boxing brilliance. With Mike Tyson, we expect knockout punches from round one. With Jones we've come to expect nothing and everything because he's capable of anything at any time. Therein lies the fascination.

Fighting Sosa in the dead of the Northeast's wicked winter did not initially inspire Jones. "Until I saw the scene [at the Garden], I didn't really feel like coming out," he said. A hard-earned kayo victory by stablemate Derrick "Smoke" Gainer, which Jones watched from ringside, helped pump him up, and by the time he made his ring walk, he was ready for showtime—even if the fight was televised by HBO.

Sosa, 171, Brooklyn, New York, executed his fight plan, which nearly got him executed. He answered the opening gong by pushing Jones, 171, to the ropes and furiously gunning to the body. Loose and relaxed, Jones spun out and responded with a signature rapid-fire flurry. But the 30-year-old Sosa, toughened by a pair of fight-of-the-year type brawls with Prince Charles Williams last year, was prepared to eat a dozen punches just to shove one down Jones' throat. He muscled Jones again, forcing the 10-1 favorite into an uncomfortable and extended session of infighting.

Sosa kept punching, but only the 26-year-old Jones kept scoring. (CompuBox had Sosa landing only 30 percent of his blows, and Jones 52 percent.) A series of hooks to the liver were followed by a combination of uppercuts and hooks. That Sosa

(Continued on page 57)

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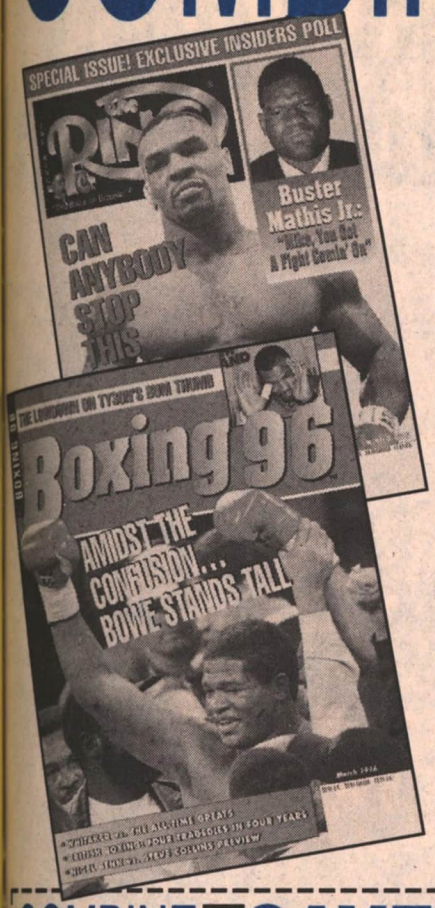

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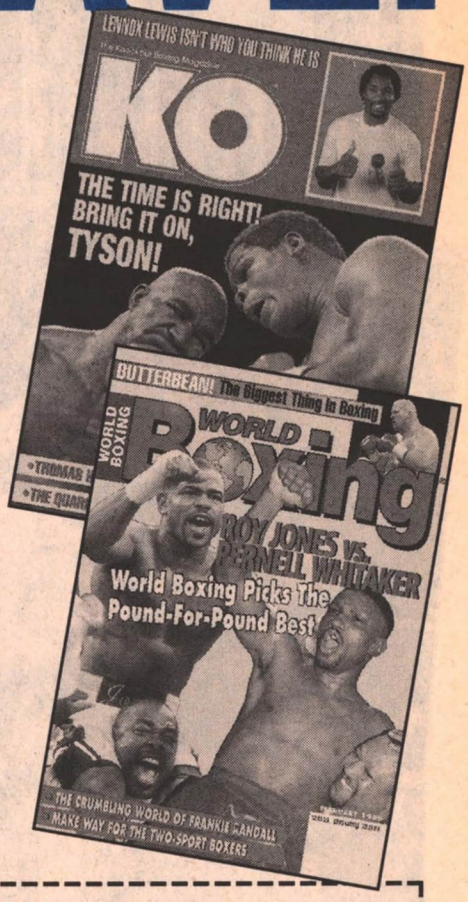

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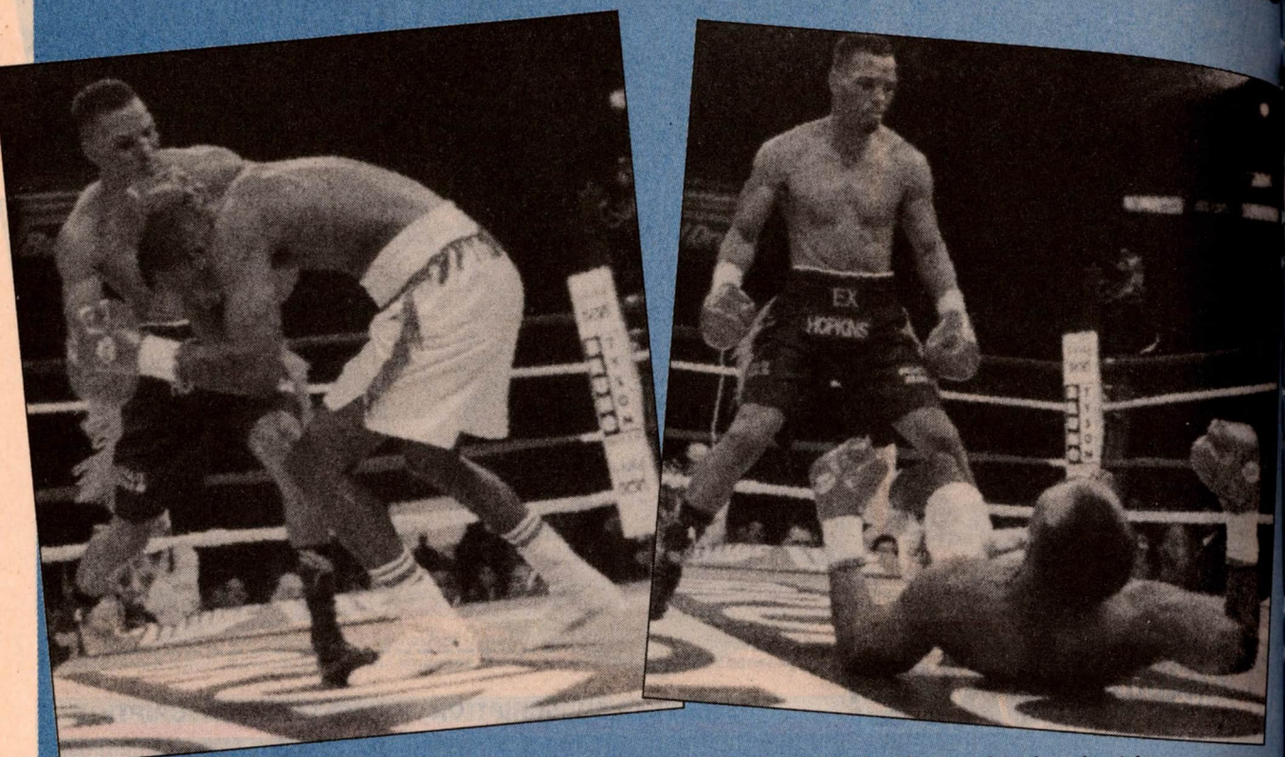
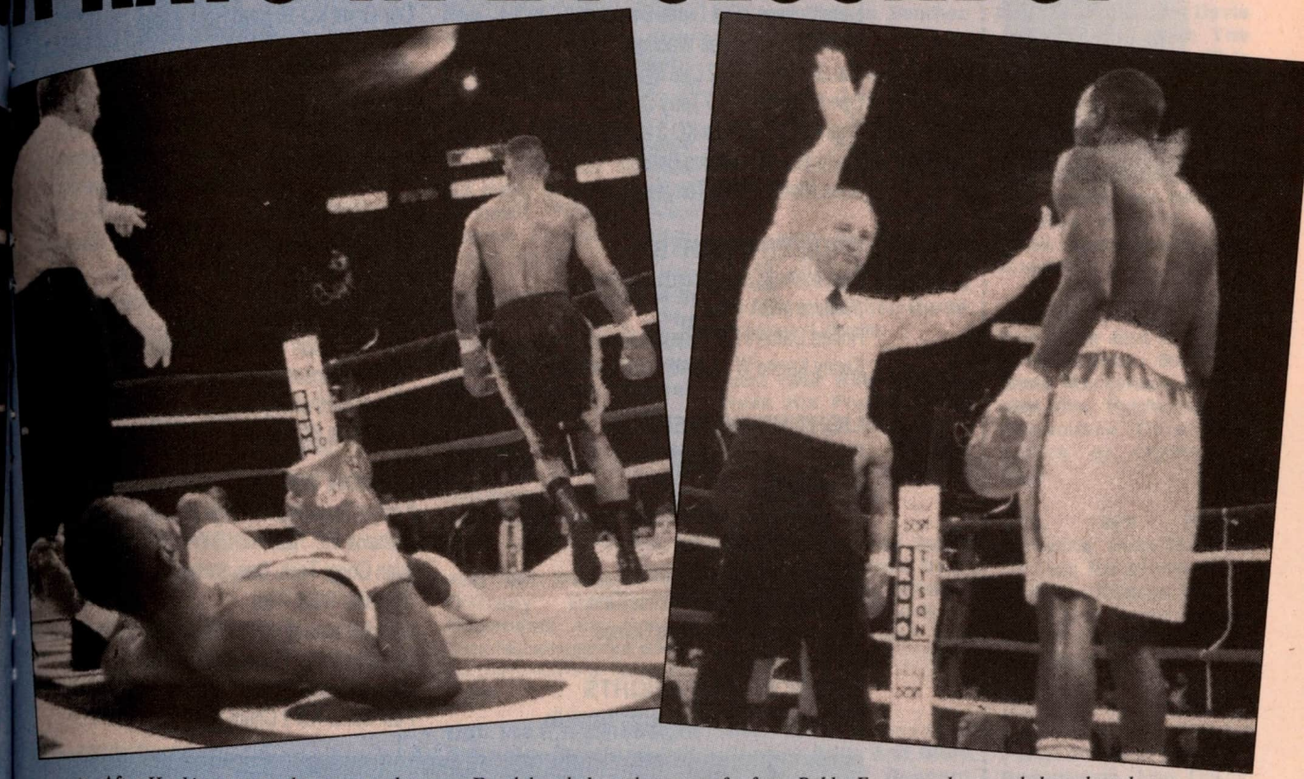
The Quickest Of Executions

BERNARD HOPKINS SCORES A KAYO IN 24 SECONDS!

Photos by Phillip Soto



Hopkins connected only eight seconds after the opening bell, downing Frank with a straight right and a right uppercut. It was no flash knockdown; the challenger went down hard.



After Hopkins retreated to a neutral corner, Frank barely beat the count of referee Bobby Ferrara, who nonetheless elected to call the bout over—at the 24-second mark. A few seconds later, Frank still seemed wobbly when he embraced Hopkins.

By Steve Farhood

There was a lot working against Bernard Hopkins before his first defense of the IBF middleweight title. For starters, "The Executioner" hadn't executed since winning the title by knocking out Segundo Mercado last April. Follow that with the fact that the Philadelphian's roadwork was limited by the record-setting storm that crippled the Northeast in early-January. Add a change in schedule; Hopkins thought he was training for a fight on February 10, and the date was changed to January 27. And toss in the ultimate distraction: Hopkins' opponent, undefeated mandatory challenger Joe Lipsey, fell out eight days before the fight. It wouldn't have been so bad, but Lipsey's a left-hander, and Hopkins had been working with five different southpaw sparring partners.

Oh, yeah, one last thing: No one knew anything about Lipsey's substitute, Steve Frank, who, of course, was a right-hander. Hopkins didn't see a single tape of his opponent, probably because the 30-year-old Frank had fought all of seven times in eight years.

"The only good thing," said Hopkins, "is that they didn't cut my purse [about $130,000]. I was disappointed; I wanted to be the first guy to knock Lipsey out. But I was a champion with a belt in a closet, and I would've fought an old lady."

(It would be easy to throw in a line about how an octogenarian great-grandmother with a walker would've proved tougher than Frank, but we'll resist the temptation.)

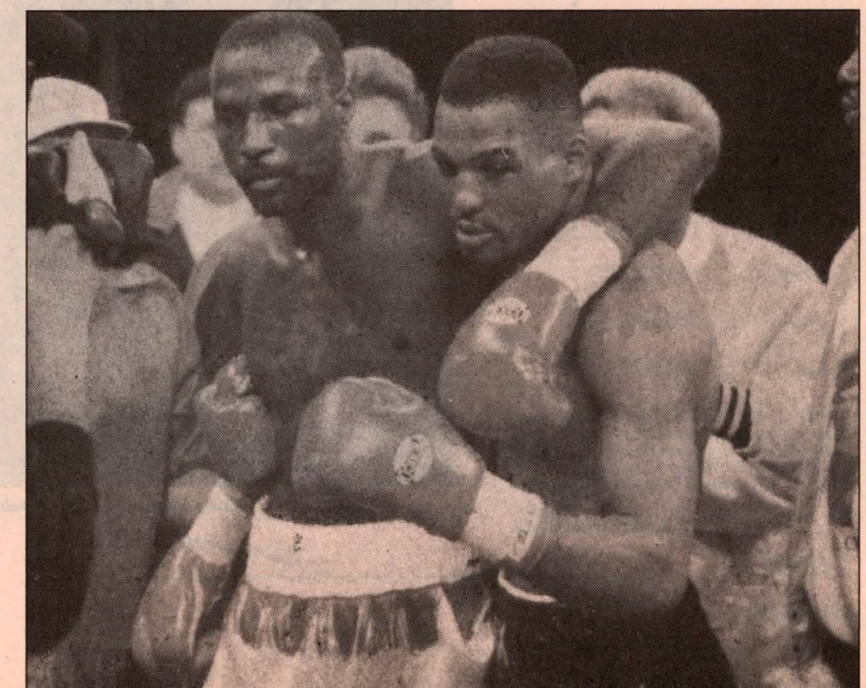
Put all the circumstances together and Hopkins was asked to cook with a recipe for disaster. So what did he do? Before a national television audience and a small crowd at the Arizona Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Phoenix, he tied the record for the shortest world title fight in history.

At the prefight press conference, Frank, who has been boxing in Miami, was bold for a moonlighter who had zero experience against world-class competition. "I have no respect for Bernard Hopkins," he said. "I'm gonna knock him out."

At the weigh-in, Frank went one step further. When the fighters were asked by photographers to square off, the challenger put his hands on the champion. Hopkins responded with a shove, and while nothing more happened, it made for good video for Fox, which televised the bout.

"Was Frank scared?" Hopkins said of his opponent, who is nicknamed "Lion Heart." "He was scared when he showed

(Continued on page 62)



THE BIBLE OF BOXING

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Tim Witherspoon W 10 Al Cole
Henry Akinwande KO 1 Brian Sargent
Larry Holmes KO 4 Curtis Shepard
Chris Byrd W 10 Jeff Wooden
Lou Savarese KO 2 Lyle McDowell
Obed Sullivan KO 5 Terry Davis
Courage Tshabalala KO 3 Kenny Myers
David Tua KO 2 Bruce Bellocci
Brian Nielsen KO 2 Tony LaRosa

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Nate Miller KO 4 Reinaldo Gimenez
(Retains WBA Title)
Robert Daniels KO 6 Timmy Knight
Kenny Keene W 10 Matthew Charleston

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Fabrice Tiozzo W 12 Eric Lucas
(Retains WBC Title)
Roy Jones KO 2 Merqui Sosa
Montell Griffin KO 1 Kid Clayton
William Guthrie W 10 Tim Hillie
Rocky Gannon W 10 Thomas Tate
Lenzie Morgan KO 7 Jose Gomes

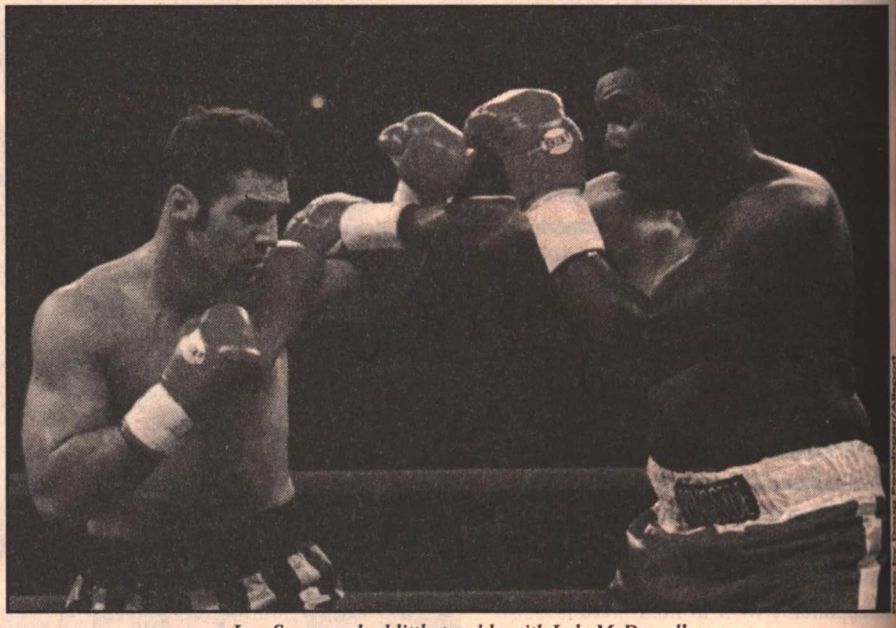
SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Henry Wharton KO 6 Vincenzo Nardiello

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Bernard Hopkins KO 1 Steve Frank
(Retains IBF Title)
Otis Grant KO 10 Hard Rock Green

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Terry Norris KO 2 Jorge Luis Vado
(Retains IBF Title)
Laurent Boudouani W 12 Javier Castillejo
Winky Wright W 8 Jean Paul D'Allesandro
Chris Pyatt W 12 Kevin Kelly
Mark Breland KO 3 Ricardo Smith
Ensley Bingham KO 3 Gilbert Jackson

WELTERWEIGHTS
Fred Pendleton KO 1 Ralph Sutherland
Ross Thompson KO 4 Wilbur Kiggundu
Giorbis Barthelemy W 12 Santiago Samaniego
Lester Ellis KO 1 Joshua Kisini

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Kostya Tszyu KO 11 Hugo Pineda
(Retains IBF Title)
Juan Coggi Tech. Dec. 5 Frankie Randall
(Regains WBA Title)
Jose Barboza W 12 Leonardo Mas
Giovanni Parisi KO 3 Ulises Chong
Diobelis Hurtado KO 10 Dezi Ford
Paul Burke KO 2 Cham Joof



Lou Savarese had little trouble with Lyle McDowell

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Shane Mosley KO 1 Mike Bryan
Leavander Johnson KO 1 Francisco Valdez

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Yong Soo Choi W 12 Yamato Mitani
(Retains WBA Title)
Robert Garcia KO 4 Lalo Montes
Justin Juuko KO 7 Jackie Gunguluza
Julien Lorcy KO 2 Senturk Ozdemir
Orlando Soto KO 4 Cristino Motta
Jose Vida Ramos KO 4 Aaron Zarate
Jimmi Bredahl W 8 Benji Marquez
Goyo Vargas KO 5 Julian Romero
Luis Navarro KO 3 Yuri Djanovski
Manny Castillo KO 11 Roberto Cobos

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Eloy Rojas W 12 Miguel Arrozal
(Retains WBA Title)
Derrick Gainer KO 10 James Crayton
David Santos KO 2 Javier Diaz
November Ntshingila KO 2 Alberto Martinez
Yuji Watanabe KO 7 Virgilio Openio

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Vuyani Bungu W 12 John Lewus
(Retains IBF Title)
Erik Morales KO 2 Kenny Mitchell
Junior Jones KO 1 Armando Navarro
Al Kotey W 12 Freddy Cruz

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Nana Konadu KO 2 Veeraphol Sahaprom
(Wins WBA Title)
Tim Austin KO 1 Kevin Sandlin

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Cecilio Espino KO 5 Francisco Carrasco

FLYWEIGHTS
Saen Sor Ploenchit W 12 Young Soon Chang
(Retains WBA Title)

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Carlos Murillo W 12 Hi Yong Choi
(Wins WBA Title)
Eric Griffin KO 3 Javier Juarez

STRAWWEIGHTS
Julio Coronel W 10 Kermin Guardia
Andy Tabanas W 10 Myong Sup Park

Photo by Doug Pensinger/Allsport

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June 1980: Interview With Gerry Cooney: The Heavyweight Contender Answers His Critics. Also: Davis, Gomez, Hagler, Pintor-Sandoval, Briscoe.

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RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

Roy Jones wants to feel what Michael Jordan feels when the NBA's greatest player is streaking downcourt during a fast break. Does Jordan believe he can do *anything?* Does he feel that nothing short of Godzilla in nylon shorts and high-top Reeboks is going to stop him from windmilling the ball and dunking?

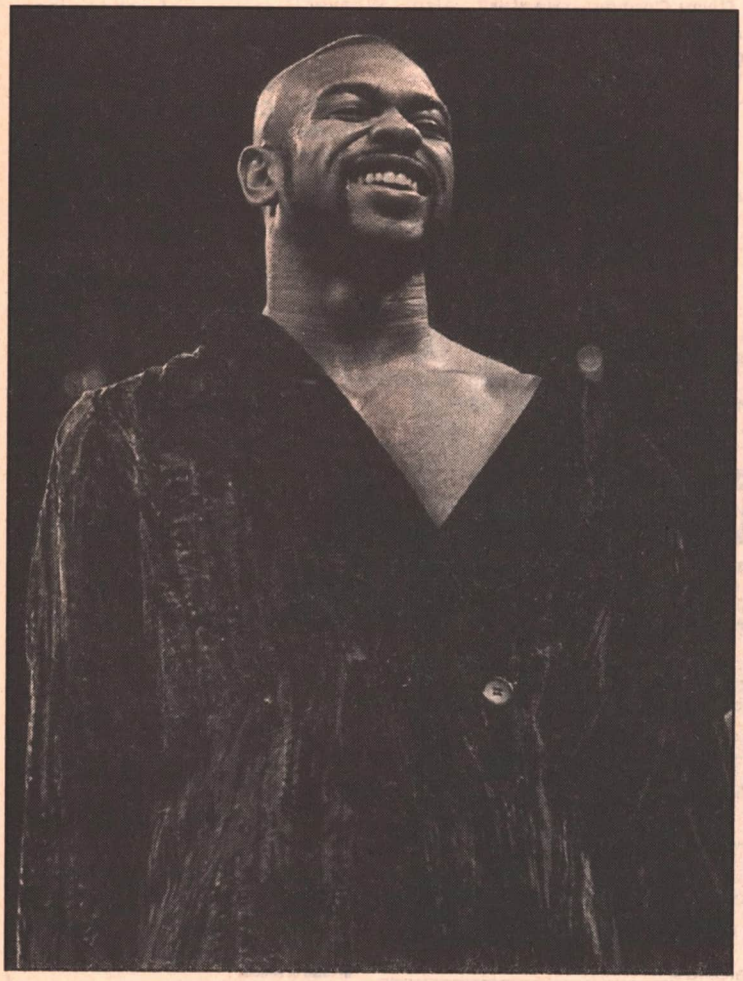


Photo by Doug Pensinger/Allsport

Jones will never experience that feeling. But how many fighters will ever feel what Jones feels when he explodes with a blizzard of blows against a world-class opponent? Jones, it seems, can indeed do anything, as his eye-popping second-round stoppage of light heavyweight Merqui Sosa suggested. And in all likelihood, since Godzilla is unavailable, it's going to take a heavyweight, and a good one, to stop him.

Here's a pay-per-view promotion to consider: Jones boxes Jordan for three minutes, then engages him in an 11-point game of one-on-one on the hardwood. On second thought, better schedule the basketball first.

• • • •

Roy Jones

Kostya Tszyu KO 11 Hugo Pineda

Sydney, Australia: When IBF junior welterweight champion Tszyu hit the canvas two minutes into his second defense, a shootout vs. mandatory challenger Pineda before a crowd of 11,500 at Parramatta Stadium, he was provided with the perfect wake-up call to put aside four months of postponements, a shift of the fight from Colombia to Australia, his temporarily being stripped of the belt, and a mini-tornado that swept the arena only hours before fight time.

After the knockdown, Tszyu, 26, 139¾, Sydney, methodically took apart the 6'1" Pineda, 140, Santa Marta, Colombia, landing his trademark right hand almost at will. Through the early part of the fight, Tszyu, 16-0 (12), was dominant. He knocked down Pineda, 27-1-1 (21), in the fourth and seventh, but to the southpaw challenger's credit, he refused to yield. Pineda, 24, soaked up a tremendous amount of punishment, and when he was penalized by referee Billy Males (Australia) for punching low in the fifth and ninth rounds, he fell even further behind in the scoring.

After Pineda enjoyed a solid 10th, it appeared he'd at least make it to the final bell. But Tszyu's electrifying power resurfaced in the 11th, and after three knockdowns, Males issued the automatic stoppage.

The judges were Ray Wheatley (Australia), Roque Garcia (Colombia), and Joe Garcia (USA).

"I'm very happy with my showing, but I could have been smarter," said Tszyu.

Promoter: Vlad Wharton

(1-20-96)

Daniel Gaylor

Nate Miller KO 4 Reinaldo Gimenez

Miami, Florida: In his first defense of the WBA cruiserweight title, Miller came into Gimenez' backyard and dished out a beating, tenderizing the challenger's midsection and keeping the crown when the Argentine quit on his stool after the fourth round at the Miami Jai-Alai Fronton.

Miller, 188½, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was never threatened. Gimenez, 189, Miami via Argentina, was brave, but he showed virtually no power. The best thing he had going for him were the connections of his manager, Tutico Zabala, and promoter, Tuto Zabala Sr. This try at the title came only four months after Gimenez had been stopped by WBC interim champion and countryman Marcelo Dominguez.

The 28-year-old Gimenez, 19-6-2 (16), tried to use jabs to keep Miller, 32, at a distance. The champion walked through those offerings, however, and unleashed wicked bodyshots that paid almost instant dividends. Much of the bout was contested at close quarters, but Gimenez did little offensively, opting to throw one or two punches and then cover up and await a response. And Miller, 27-4 (23), always responded—with force.

Gimenez grew brave after landing a hook to the head in round three, but Miller blocked most of the punches and quickly regained command. Gimenez had his best round in the fourth, when he landed several solid punches. As he walked to his corner after the bell, however, it was obvious he had nothing left in his tank. Still, in light of his past performances, his surrender came as a surprise.

Explained manager Zabala, "They were looking for an opponent for Miller on short notice and I had Gimenez. He had only 10 days notice, and he had to lose about 10 pounds. They offered us a title fight and, you know, you can never turn it down."

Added Zabala, "[Gimenez] wasn't hurt, he was exhausted."

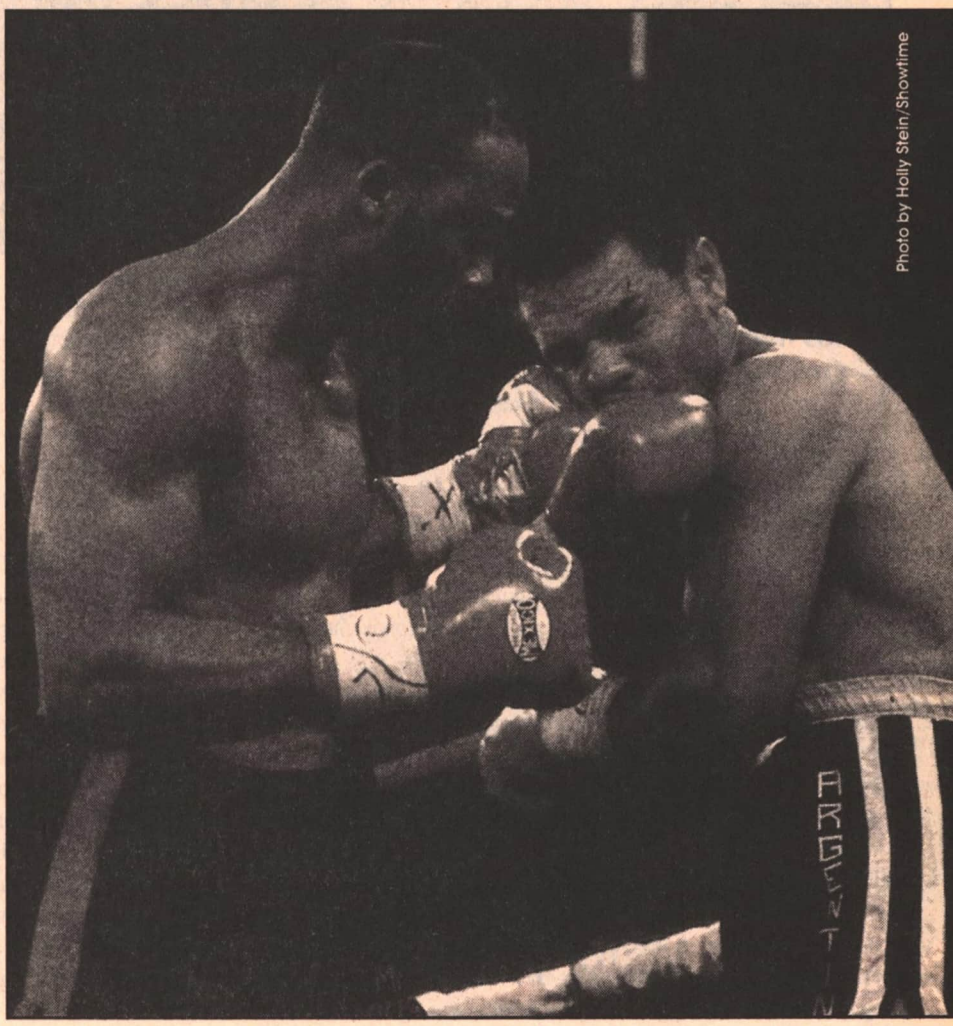
The judges were Guy Jutras (Canada), Jay Kassees (USA), and Enma Urrunga (Panama). The referee was Bernie Soto (USA).

It is anticipated Miller's next defense will come against Adolpho Washington.

Promoter: Don King

(1-13-96)

Ken Knox



Miller was far too accurate for Gimenez

Photo by Holly Stein/Showtime

Murillo blasted Choi from all angles

Carlos Murillo W 12 Hi Yong Choi

Miami, Florida: On a three-title fight card at the Miami Jai-Alai Fronton that included Coggi-Randall and Miller-Gimenez, Murillo was the star of the night.

Making his first appearance outside the Orient, Choi, 107½, Pusan, South Korea, had a large and vocal contingent cheering him on throughout this, his second defense of the WBA junior flyweight title. What he needed was some of his countrymen in the ring to help keep Murillo, 107, San Miguelito, Panama, from punishing him with both hands and capturing the crown via unanimous decision.

For Murillo, it was a case of third-time lucky; he had failed in two previous world title fight opportunities, both points losses on the road to then-strawweight champion Chana Porpaoin. This time, he started fast and failed to decelerate until the last two rounds, when the outcome was no longer in doubt.

Choi entered the ring to the strains of the South Korean national anthem and a sea of flags held aloft by his countrymen, who packed the arena. Once the bell sounded, however, he simply couldn't match the shorter Murillo's activity or power. The 25-year-old challenger swept the first five rounds, consistently beating Choi, 30, to the trigger with jabs, hooks, and rights. In the second round, Murillo dazzled Choi with six consecutive hooks to the head. The champion was more competitive in the third and fifth, which featured sizzling action.

While Murillo repeatedly stung his foe from a distance, Choi opted to throw one punch, then rush in, lean on the Panamanian, and tie him up. Referee Armando Garcia (Cuba) often warned Choi about leading with his head, but issued no warnings for the South Korean's frequent use of rabbit punches.

Former strawweight champion Choi, 19-2 (8), won the sixth by pinning Murillo to the ropes and scoring with combinations. Murillo, 33-2 (27), regained his momentum in the seventh, popping Choi with hooks to the head and rights to the body. The challenger swept rounds seven through nine, but by the 10th, during which he was cut on the scalp by an unintentional clash of heads, he was showing signs of fatigue.

Choi bullied Murillo over the last six minutes, but his rally was inconsequential, as Gonzalo Rivera (Venezuela) scored 116-113, Ric Bays (USA) 116-112, and Uriel Aguilera (Colombia) 119-110.

Afterward, Choi blamed visa problems caused by the government shutdown for his woes, saying that after an 18-hour flight, he arrived in the U.S. only three days before the fight.

Promoter: Don King

(1-13-96)

Ken Knox

Vuyani Bungu W 12 John Lewus

Biloxi, Mississippi: Defending the IBF junior featherweight title for the fifth time, Bungu clearly outpointed Lewus by unanimous decision at the Grand Casino.

"He's a tough guy," Bungu said of his challenger. "He was prepared to take a shot, but I told myself I was going to take care of him. Busy guy, no experience."

Making his first defense outside of his homeland, the 5'6" Bungu, 122, East London, South Africa, used his six-inch reach advantage to rake Lewus, 122, Chicago, Illinois, with jabs and combinations. Despite his impressive kayo numbers, the 24-year-old Lewus, 18-3 (16), had little to offer in the way of power. His wins had come against inferior opposition, and he dropped a decision to the one quality fighter he had faced, former world champion Orlando Canizales. In fact, all three of Lewus' ventures outside of Chicago have resulted in losses.

There were no knockdowns in the fight. Lewus started aggressively, as he had promised to do, but the jab of the 28-year-old Bungu, 29-2 (17), slowed him down, and the challenger faded badly over the last half of the fight. Bungu, on the other hand, remained busy; characteristically, he boxed the 12th round as if it were the first.

Stanley Christodoulou (South Africa) scored 120-110, C.D. Jenkins (USA) 118-112, and Elmo Adolph (USA) 118-111. The referee was Fred Steinwinder III (USA).

Since his brilliant performance in winning the title from Kennedy McKinney, Bungu has decisioned all five of his ordinary challengers. If anything, this USA-televised defense, as one-sided as it was, created more questions. Is Bungu the type of fighter who needs quality opposition to bring out his best, or is he that boxing rarity, an unexciting pressure fighter?

Among those in attendance were Roy Jones, Kenny Stabler, and Butterbean.

Promoters: Cedric Kushner, Les Bonano

(1-23-96)

Charlie Bier

Fabrice Tiozzo W 12 Eric Lucas

St. Etienne, France: Returning to action for the first time since a sensational victory over Mike McCallum last June, Tiozzo outclassed and dominated a belligerent Lucas at the Palais des Sports and retained the WBC light heavyweight title for the first time.

Basing his commanding performance around a persistent, accurate, and penetrative jab, Tiozzo, 174¼, St. Etienne, frequently shook Lucas, 173½, Montreal, Canada, with precise combinations. Lucas absorbed the punishment well and frustrated all of Tiozzo's attempts to contrive a stoppage. His moments of success, however, were confined to sporadic bursts and were usually precipitated by Tiozzo taking a short breather. But Lucas' dogged refusal to yield was fully appreciated by the French fans, who applauded warmly and chanted his name at the end of the bout.

The 26-year-old Tiozzo, 33-1 (21), settled into a relaxed rhythm early on and rocked the 6' challenger with a left-right 15 seconds from the end of the first round. Though he survived a jarring right uppercut early in the second, Lucas' senses were scrambled by a compact hook-straight right combo in the third, the force of which knocked him over. His inexperience told when he shot up at American referee Arthur Mercante's count of two and tried to slug it out with the champion, clearly emerging second-best.

Bleeding from the nose, the 25-year-old Lucas, 18-2-2 (4), looked a sorry sight, but Tiozzo's overwhelming superiority never dampened his spirit. He bravely tried to match the champion's fire, but it was like a tommy-gun vs. a cannon. Lucas was hurt again in the sixth and seventh, and he did well to avoid a second knockdown when Tiozzo attacked in the eighth.

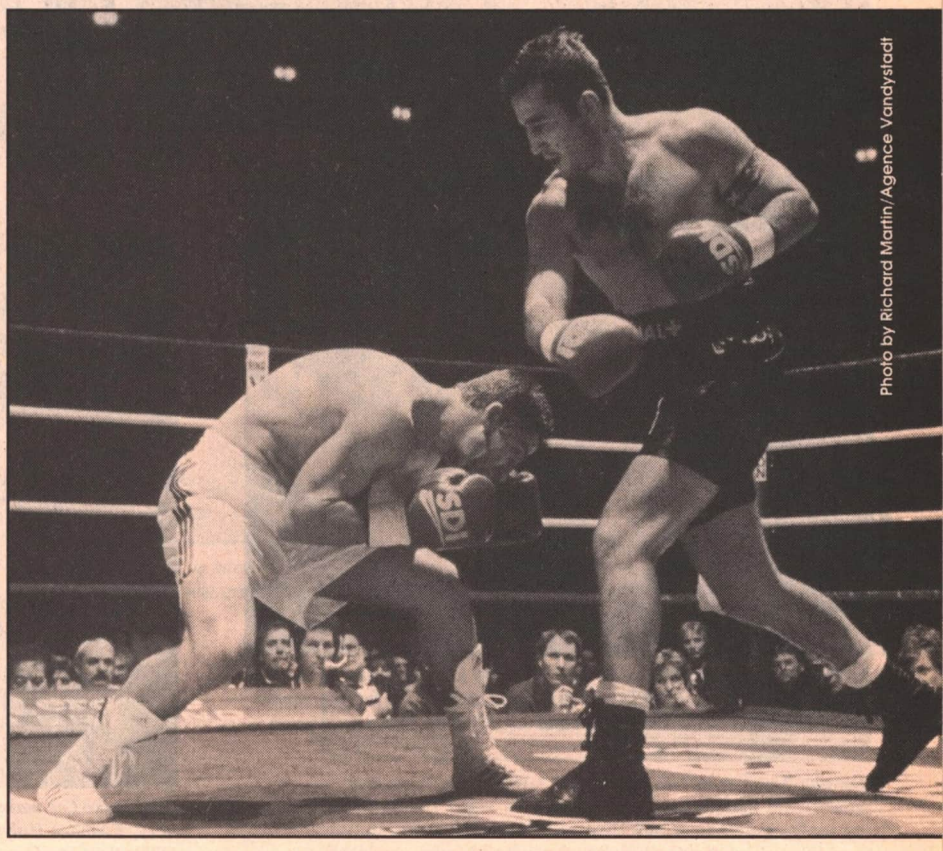
Lucas enjoyed brief success in the ninth, but Tiozzo regained control with some big rights in the 10th, and a right-left uppercut combination had the challenger in trouble at the end of the 11th.

The scoring was unanimous, with totals of 119-108, 118-109, and 117-110.

A unification bout between Tiozzo and IBF champion Henry Maske would be intriguing, but look for McCallum to get a rematch first.

(1-13-96)

Brian Doogan ■



Tiozzo dominated, but he couldn't down Lucas

CAMERA CLICKS

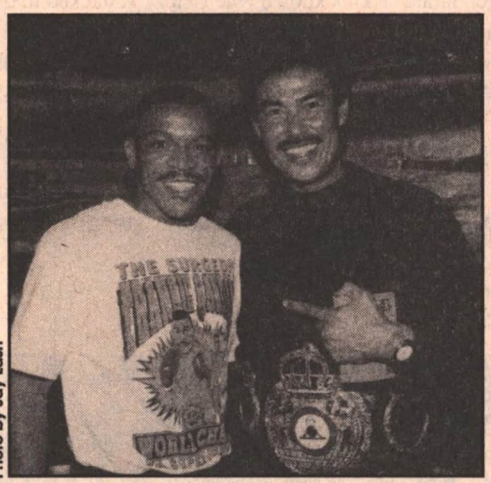


Photo by Jay Lash

Frankie Randall, pictured with all-star pitcher Dennis Martinez, didn't get to enjoy his WBA junior welterweight belt for long. He was finally presented with the belt at the weigh-in of his fight with Juan Coggi, and he lost it to the Argentine by controversial technical decision.

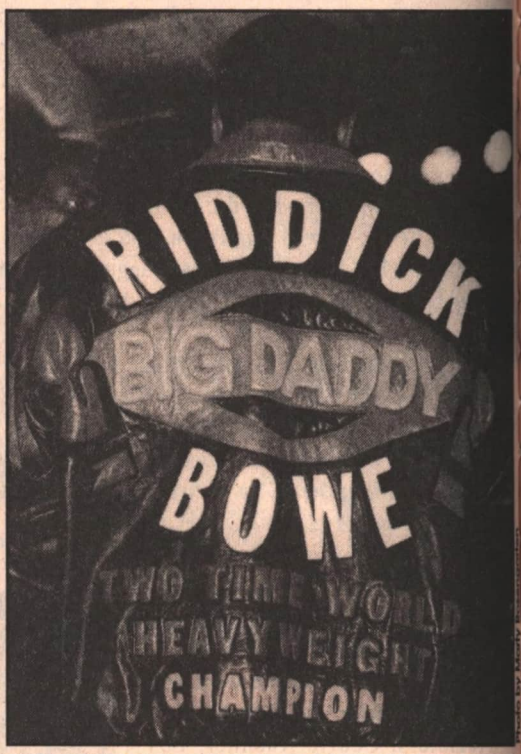


Photo by Doug Pensinger/Allsport

A shy celebrity? Never let it be said that Riddick Bowe travels incognito. Nice jacket, though, Big Daddy.

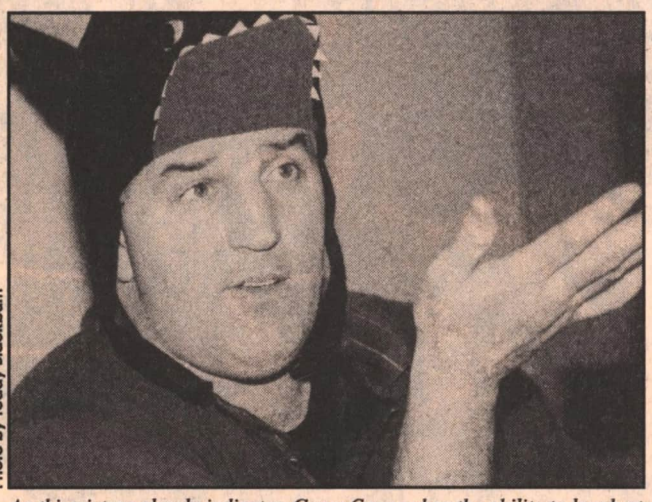


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

As this picture clearly indicates, Gerry Cooney has the ability to laugh at himself. After a lengthy battle with drugs and alcohol, the former number-one heavyweight contender is clean and happy for the first time in years.

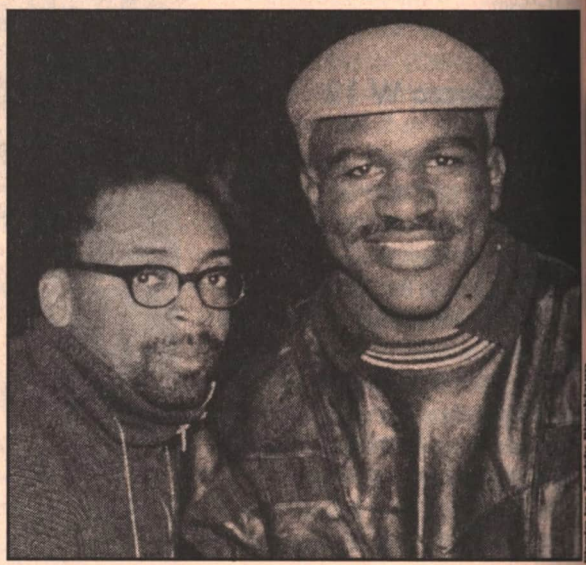
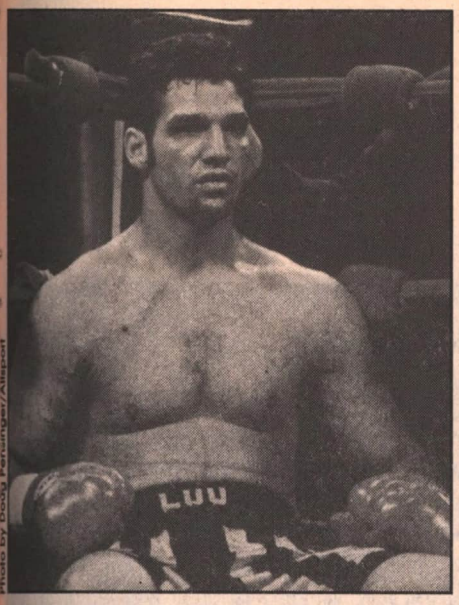


Photo by Marty Rosenbaum

Will Spike Lee make a movie about the richest fighter in boxing history, Evander Holyfield? What's more likely is that Spike will ask "The Real Deal" to bankroll his next film.

New York heavyweight Lou Savarese, 34-0 (28), hasn't fought tough competition, but he's likely to make a move in 1996. Savarese has often been mentioned as an opponent for George Foreman.



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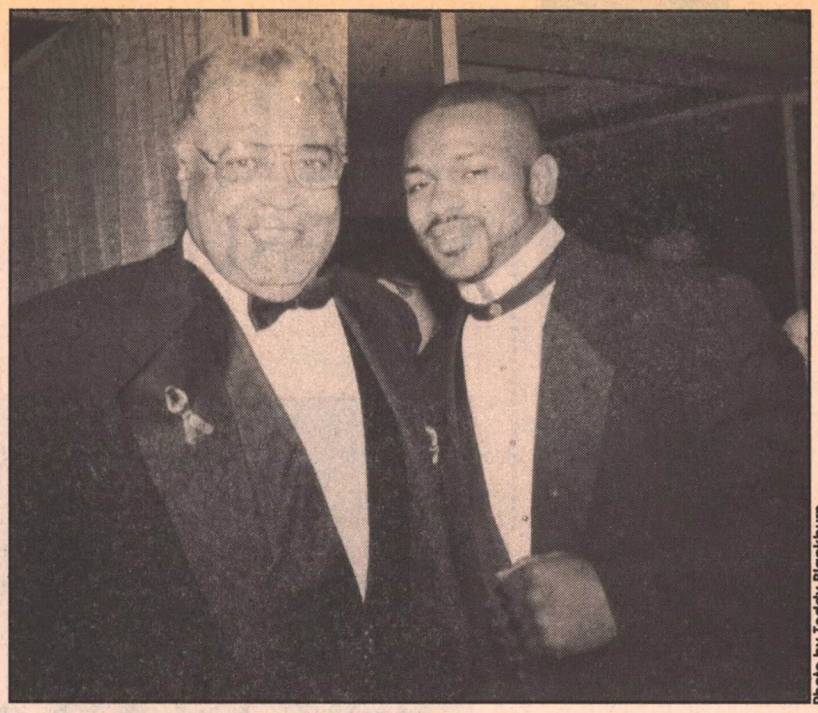


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Keeping up with the Joneses isn't easy when you're talking about James Earl and Roy, who looked sharp in their penguin suits at the annual CORE dinner in New York City.

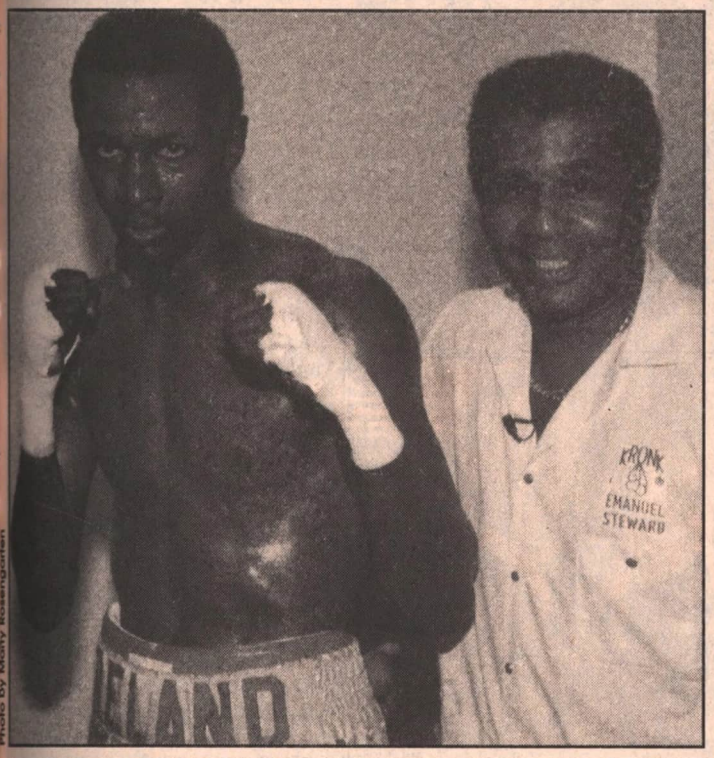


Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Former Olympian Mark Breland, shown with trainer Emanuel Steward, is back after a four-year absence from the ring. In January, the two-time former welterweight champion kayoed Ricardo Smith in New York City.

NOSTALGIA CORNER

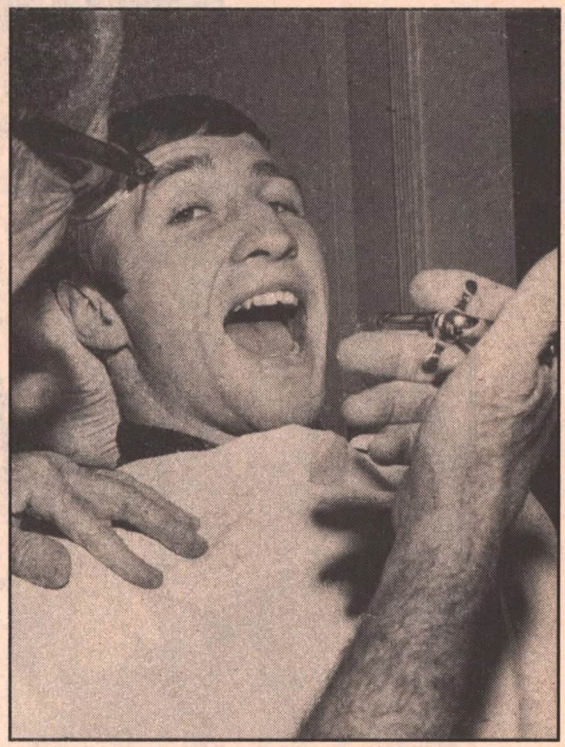


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Is this guy crazy? Former lightweight champion Ken Buchanan seems almost eager to receive this injection from his friendly neighborhood dentist. The shot had a numbing effect on Buchanan, much like the fists of Roberto Duran.

By Stanley Weston
Publisher, THE RING Magazine

TIME CAPSULES

CURLY, LARRY, AND MOE

(January 19, 1956)

Two things have been, and always will be, inevitable at banquets when boxing folks gather to celebrate whatever it is they can think of to celebrate: dissecting "rubber" chicken and picture-taking gigs. After the chicken came and went at the annual boxing writers awards banquet at New York City's venerable Roosevelt Hotel, the cameras were cranked up and the handshakes and back-slapping by old foes began. As usual, all cameras and eyes focused on the heavyweights. And this particular evening was top-heavy with them, including Joe Louis, Rocky Marciano, and the Cinderella Man himself, Jimmy Braddock. The three titans had a connection: Louis had knocked out Braddock, and Marciano had knocked out Louis. Now this noble trio, all of whom had once been world champion, gathered at the northeast end of the hotel's grand ballroom. After Joe comforted Jimmy with a sincere "you had an off-night in Chicago," and Rocky comforted Jimmy with an even more sincere "I was lucky you weren't 10 years younger at the Garden that night," the posing and popping of flashbulbs began.

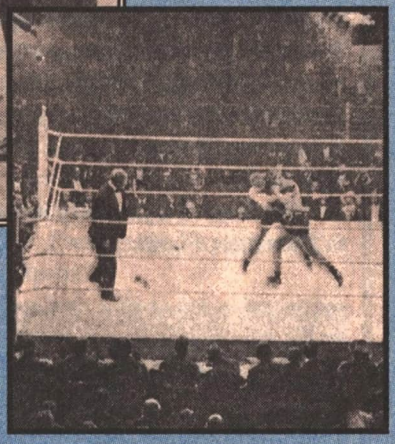
Balancing his 200-plus-pound bulk uneasily on a chair so he could see over the photographers, an obvious freeloading interloper glared at the former champions. "Look at 'em," he bellowed. "Curly, Larry, and Moe. The Three Stooges in living color." With witnesses shocked and furious that anyone could cast such a brazen disrespect at living legends, heads spun around in unison searching for the culprit. The freeloader evidently got what he wanted: attention. But nobody laughed.

After being honored at a banquet in New York City, three legendary former heavyweight champions posed for photographers. But a cutting remark from a disrespectful gate-crasher startled the guests and changed the mood from celebration to anger. From left: Rocky Marciano, Joe Louis, and Jimmy Braddock.

THE CHAMPION ARRIVES

(June 14, 1914)

Lightweight champion of the world Willie Ritchie wasn't comfortable when he signed to defend the title against Britain's master of boxing's fine art, Freddie Welsh. Don't think for a moment that Ritchie feared hit-me-if-you-can Freddie. After all, Willie had coasted to a 20-round decision victory over Welsh in Los Angeles three years before, in 1911. But this return match was to take place half a world away from Ritchie's Los Angeles backyard. This time Welsh would have the precious hometown edge: London, England. Ritchie had plenty of time to ponder the wisdom of accepting the match. Twelve days and nights, to be exact, or the time it took Britain's huge Cunard superliner Aquitania to cross the Atlantic Ocean.



Above: World lightweight champion Willie Ritchie (center), accompanied by adviser Emile Thiry (left) and matchmaker Bob Vernon, arrives in England aboard Cunard's flagship Aquitania for a title defense against British boxing master Freddie Welsh. Right: A rare photo of the fight, at London's National Sporting Club, shows Ritchie (left) and Welsh clinching in the 19th round as referee Eugene Corri orders them to break.

"The ship never stopped heaving," Ritchie would later recall. "And I never ate anything but tea, biscuits, and an occasional three-minute egg. I can't count the number of times I asked myself, 'What in hell am I doing on this floating prison?'" There was only one reason: Only by fighting Freddie Welsh in London could Willie-the-champion earn a guaranteed $25,000 purse. "I should have demanded another $25,000 for making the trip," Ritchie snarled to Harry Pollok, Welsh's manager, who greeted him at Fishguard, where the Aquitania docked in England. Although Willie never mentioned it, his wife revealed that her husband had also been haunted by visions of the disastrous sinking of the "unsinkable" Titanic two years earlier, with a record number of casualties.

What happened on that wet night of July 7, 1914, at London's National Sporting Club, bore out all of Willie Ritchie's haunting fears about defending the crown in Britain's intriguing sporting web. The fight went the distance, 20 rounds of sleep-generating clinches, with nary a single solid blow pitched in anger. Mutual respect between foes, even in those long ago days, could act as an audience anesthetic. And Willie and Freddie surely carried the mutual respect thing to excess. In a 1960 interview published in the *Los Angeles Examiner*, Ritchie told his side of the story.

"I was most unhappy when Eugene Corri was named to referee. He was the most respected referee in Europe, without question. I did not question his ability, but I just knew he would favor the local man, particularly against an American. I asked Emile Thiry, who was acting as my manager-adviser at the time, to object to Corri. But Thiry advised it would do more harm than good, besides being useless. Corri, who was the only official, had the score dead-even at the end of the 19th round, 81½ points for each of us. That was under the British scoring system, which I have never really understood. So the 20th and last round would decide the winner. I figured I won that round by a convincing margin. But Eugene Corri saw it just the other way around. When the decision was announced, I could not believe my ears. 'Ritchie of America 85½ points, Welsh of Great Britain 86½ points. The winner and new lightweight champion of the world, Freddie Welsh.' I sat down in my corner, and with wild cheers ringing in my ears, but not for me, I cried."

Willie Ritchie and Freddie Welsh fought a third time, eight months later, at New York's Madison Square Garden. Not quite Willie's backyard, but a helluva lot closer, and much more understanding than London had been. Number three was a 10-rounder in the scandalous no-decision days. Freddie's crown, still resting comfortably on his mop of jet-black hair, was not at risk. Freddie was much too smart for that. Welsh absorbed what was probably the most devastating beating of his hallowed career. Ritchie won all 10 rounds by consecutively wider margins as the slaughter progressed. Willie summed up his series with "Peerless Freddie" best when he quipped years later, "Even if Eugene Corri had refereed that third fight at Madison Square Garden, he would have had to give me a shutout. Ten out of 10."

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Coggi-Randall

(Continued from page 37)

rest, and if Randall wants a rematch, he is going to have to wait, just like Coggi had to wait. Also, [Randall] does not deserve anything for his actions in or out of the ring."

"I'll take care of business," Randall countered. "I'm not giving up; my head's still strong. I'm a fighter and I'm gonna continue on. I'm gonna tell Don [King] to put me in with [IBF welterweight champion] Felix Trinidad. I'm a natural 140-pounder; I have no problem making the weight. But I'll fight anyone, and I'm convinced a third fight with Julio Cesar Chavez isn't gonna happen."

"He's had it very tough in the boxing world," said Sher, "and he's not getting any younger, so he wants to get that title back. He has achieved championships which have been very beneficial and very rewarding to him, but he wants to be recognized as an excellent fighter, an excellent boxer. Not just a man who got a title and then lost it."

It's in the stars that anything Frankie Randall earns won't come easy. His future, then, will be determined by his ability to continue to overcome adversity—and keep from getting too wet when that next cloudburst comes. ■

Ken Knox is a freelance writer based in Plantation, Florida.

Witherspoon

(Continued from page 39)

and active. But he holds no championship belts, and the alphabet boys don't rate him very high. So who needs him? Or, as John Hornewer, attorney and adviser for Lennox Lewis, puts it, "No, we're not interested in fighting Tim Witherspoon. There's no *upside*."

On January 12, on the Jones-Sosa undercard at Madison Square Garden, Spoon hit Al Cole upside the head for 10 rounds en route to a one-sided unanimous decision victory. Granted, Cole, the reigning IBF cruiserweight champion, was making his first serious foray into the heavyweight division. Still, Spoon looked extremely sharp—and he fought more than half the bout with a broken bone in his left hand.

"And it was the left hand I was hitting him with in the early rounds," Spoon pointed out.

Considering the number of name heavyweights who have turned down a fight with Spoon over the last few months, you can imagine what his performance did for his future. Managers from Jersey City to Johannesburg probably pulled his number from their Rolodexes and lit a match to the little white card.

In attempting to further Spoon's career, his outspoken promoter, Dennis Rappaport, isn't above naming names. According to Rappaport, Ray Mercer has turned down Spoon, as has Alexandr Zolkin, James Thunder, Danell Nicholson, and Andrew Golota. "Alex Stewart wouldn't even spar with him," Rappaport added.

Most promoters are prone to exaggeration, but HBO's Lou DiBella supports Rappaport's claim. "In attempting to make a good match for Tim, the only one to step up to the plate was Al Cole," DiBella said. "Half-a-dozen guys turned Witherspoon down."

In the heavyweight world, there are two hemispheres. One belongs to Don King and Showtime/SET, who promote and televise the bouts of Mike Tyson and the three alphabet champions, Frank Bruno, Bruce Seldon, and Frans Botha. The other belongs to HBO/TVKO, which airs the bouts of Lewis, Michael Moorer, Evander Holyfield, George Foreman, and the big man regarded as the best in the world, Riddick Bowe. Spoon recently joined the second group. After suing King and beating his former promoter out of a reported $1-million settlement more than three years ago, he didn't have much of a choice.

"Timmy called me after the [third] Bowe-Holyfield fight," said Rappaport, "and he said, 'Dennis, if I had been in the ring with Bowe, I would've knocked him out.' With Tim, it used to be a question of which fighter would show up. Eliminate that question and ... "

If Spoon can maintain the form he

showed vs. Cole, Rappaport knows exactly how he'd finish that quote. Relatively trim and well-conditioned, Witherspoon, 228, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, fought 10 hard rounds, largely because Cole, 215, Spring Valley, New York, forced him to.

"No one anticipated Tim would be able to keep such a busy pace," said Rappaport.

Strategically, the key was Spoon's ability to neutralize Cole's jab. The 6'4" Cole was armed with a four-inch reach advantage, but by the end of the first round, he was stepping inside. "Cole didn't stick to his game plan, which was to stay outside," said Alton Merkerson, the cruiserweight champion's trainer.

The fighters traded for the first time early in the second round, and while Cole, only an average puncher at 190 pounds, lacked the power to threaten Spoon, he carried his world-class chin with him. Spoon's right uppercut-left hook combination punctuated the round and introduced a pattern: Cole would initiate the action and move his hands, but the heavier-punching Spoon would inflict the damage.

Cole, 27-2 (13), may have edged Spoon in the fourth and fifth, but just when ringsiders were anticipating a late-rounds fade, the veteran accelerated and swept the remaining stanzas. A one-two early in the sixth produced a spray of "Ice's" sweat, and three consecutive rights in the eighth forced Cole to back off. Spoon scored with right uppercuts in the ninth and 10th and cruised to a points victory, with Eva Shain and Luis Rivera scoring 100-90 and Nick Cimino 99-91. THE RING had Spoon ahead by 98-92.

It was suggested to Rappaport that Witherspoon hurt himself by looking so good. "You hit the nail right on the head," the manager said.

Maybe Cole, as busy and game as he was, was the right opponent at the right time, and maybe Witherspoon won't ever look as good again. But at least he's likely to get the chance. HBO wants him back in April, but as we went to press, it hadn't yet been determined how Spoon's broken hand was going to affect his schedule.

"We all recognize there's no time for detours and distractions," said Tom Moran, Spoon's adviser. "Tim's in the best mental shape he's been in for years, and part of it is that when you have x amount of time, you have no choice but to be focused."

"When you're younger, you think you're always gonna have chances," Spoon said a couple of weeks after the Cole fight. "Now I'm being given opportunities all over again. Why not give it all you got?"

Moran and Rappaport acknowledge that moving Witherspoon and securing paydays befitting a 38-year-old former world champion is a particularly difficult task. Each plans on attacking the problem in his own way. Said the bombastic Rappaport, "If I have to take a full-page ad out in the newspaper, I will. If we have to dog guys like Riddick Bowe, we're gonna do it. If we have to picket outside their houses, we'll do it." Moran, on the other hand, said, "The perception among boxing people is that Tim is one of the best four or five heavyweights in the world. But the public perception is somewhat lower. It's the opposite of a Tommy Morrison. But that's how you get paid—when the public perception is higher. Hopefully, the Cole fight will help."

With Spoon virtually blackballed from a try at one of the world titles, further appearances on HBO will also help. The opponents mentioned most often are Mercer and Holyfield. Like Spoon, Mercer has little to lose. And Holyfield, according to promoter Main Events, understands he's going to have to fight once or twice before securing another try at the title. Even so, why would he agree to tackle Spoon?

"If Tim isn't able to get a shot at one of the big boys," said DiBella, "you have to make the best fight available. You have to put him in with guys boxing insiders consider legitimate top-10 contenders. Then, if he keeps winning, the Bowes, Lewises, and Tysons will *have* to fight him."

Imagine if it ever came to that—Tim Witherspoon vs. Mike Tyson for the undisputed heavyweight championship of the world. The mere thought, we're sure, is enough to make Don King call every barber shop, restaurant, and movie house in Philadelphia. "Do you know this man?" King will ask after describing Spoon. "No, you don't," he'll answer, not waiting for a response. ■

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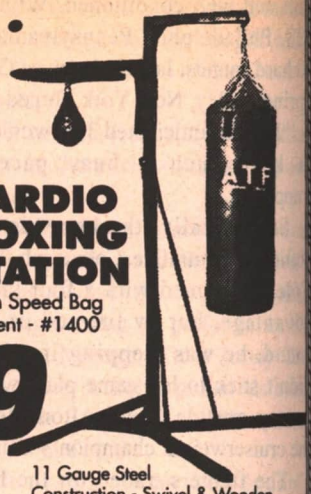

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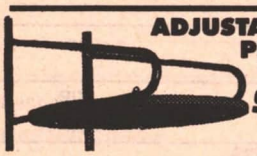

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Jones-Sosa

(Continued from page 42)

was smothering him didn't seem to bother Jones—or affect his hand speed. Moved across the ring to his own corner, he cracked Sosa with a hook flush to the jaw and a hook-right combo. Already, Sosa was wobbly. He drew Jones into an exchange just before the bell, then returned to his corner looking somewhat beaten up, but not at all discouraged.

"Any time I can hit a man that often, I can hurt him," said Jones.

The proof came in the second round. Sosa, 26-5-2 (22), opened with a hook to the face, his best punch of the fight, but Jones answered with *five* hooks of his own. The fight moved from Sosa's corner to Jones', where the unbeaten champion connected with two thunder hooks and a left uppercut.

"I worked him inside and didn't want to run from him," said Jones. "I showed power and strength tonight."

Not to mention a sneaky side. Finally freed from the ropes, Jones set up in ring-center, then took a step back and paused ... and took another step back and paused ... and then sprung forward with a lead right. *Boom!* As referee Ken Zimmer issued only the second count of Sosa's career (James Toney had previously floored him), Jones stood cavalierly in a neutral corner, his hands on his hips and a smirk on his face. "Ego," he later explained, tongue only partly in cheek.

"I knew Sosa wanted to pressure me," Jones said, "so I let him come and we'd fight, and I let him come and we'd fight, and I got him thinking we were gonna fight. And then he came and I *went*." As in went off.

When Zimmer waved the fighters back together, Jones struck with a twentysomething-punch flurry that spun the head of not only Sosa, but also the frazzled CompuBox counter. Only five or six of the blows landed cleanly, but Sosa, covering up on the ropes, failed to respond with anything of his own, and Zimmer stepped in at the 2:36 mark. "He was getting hit with too many punches and wasn't coming back," explained the referee.

A standing eight-count would have been more appropriate than a stoppage, but Zimmer admitted that he had forgotten the rule. Pummeled, but hardly ready to submit, Sosa objected by shoving the referee. In the long run, of course, Zimmer probably did Sosa a favor, even if the fighter and his handler, Tommy Gallagher, didn't share that view. Asked to reveal the hardest thing about fighting Jones, Sosa deadpanned, "The referee."

"[Sosa] was on the ropes, bobbing and weaving like he was supposed to be doing," said an enraged Gallagher. "The ref didn't have the foggiest. He wanted to stop the fight when he came into the ring. If you watch the referee, the referee was *dying* to step in."

Countered Jones, "He was seriously hurt and he was tired. The bodyshots were taking their toll. If he was okay, when he went to the ropes, he would've thrown punches. Looking at me and knowing what I have in my arsenal, they probably should've stopped it three punches before that."

***

There are five fights remaining on Jones' six-bout contract with HBO. Asked who the opposition might be, Lou DiBella, vice president of HBO Sports, said, "What's the difference? You look for the best fight out there."

HBO just signed WBA light heavyweight champion Virgil Hill, but if that's the best fight out there, Jones might as well try heavyweights. The IBF's mandatory challenger at super middleweight is Philadelphia's Bryant Brannon, who might not last as long with Jones as previous number-one rated contender Tony Thornton, a third-round kayo victim last September.

"I happen to think that fight is 30 seconds," said DiBella. "I'm not knocking him, but Brannon is what he is, a good local fighter."

There's always light heavyweight contender Montell Griffin, but his trainer, Eddie Futch, has already turned down a fight with Jones. And there's the always-entertaining Benn, but as long as the British champion is associated with Don King, it figures to be business as usual, which means no business at all. Other names that have been mentioned: Bobby Czyz and Michael Moorer.

"Thankfully, because of the HBO contract, we're locked into good paydays," said Stan Levin, Jones' adviser. "But Roy's competitive spirit needs to be fired up. We're still hoping one way or another to lure Nigel [Benn] out. If Roy is denied suitable opposition, he might be denied his true place in boxing history.

"I hope somehow the competition surfaces. To see Roy in the gym, and then see how little he's needed to show to the public, it *is* frustrating."

But fascinating, too. ■

New Faces

(Continued from page 16)

terms of powerpunching, reflexes, and coordination, he may be the best heavyweight in the world."

Those are strong words considering Grant has fought a total of 26 bouts. He was 11-1 as an amateur, and is 15-0 (11) as a pro. It is the promise of Grant's athletic gifts that has led to such overt optimism.

"I think he's a better athlete than [Riddick] Bowe," said Turner. "But the difference is that Bowe has been boxing 10 times longer than Michael."

So what was Grant doing? He was figuring out what sport he wanted to be great in.

Grant was a three-sport star at William Rainy Harper High School in Chicago, competing in football, basketball, and baseball. As a senior pitcher, he said his fastball was clocked in the 90s, and that the Kansas City Royals offered him an invitation to spring training. But he shunned baseball after high school and played football and basketball at a pair of junior colleges, Fullerton J.C. in California and Mt. San Antonio College, known as Mt. SAC.

Grant played defensive end and tight end on the gridiron and power forward on the hardwood. At Fullerton, he

teamed with Deon Figures, who plays defensive back for the Pittsburgh Steelers, and Keyshawn Johnson, the USC wide receiver who will be a first-round pick in this year's NFL draft.

"I can't say that I watch football and basketball and don't miss them both," said Grant. "I do. But I know what I can accomplish in boxing."

Ultimately, it was the one-on-one competition and the potential of tremendous paydays that lured Grant to boxing.

"I saw the first Holyfield-Bowe fight and it was such a great fight," he said. "I identified with Bowe because he is a big heavyweight. I watched that fight and said, 'I can do that.' I just knew it was something I could do. It takes a guy who is willing and able. I have the desire to go ahead and do it."

Grant moved to Las Vegas from Fullerton and began his brief amateur career. While his athletic background helped him in the ring, he said the mental edge gained while competing in the pressurized world of collegiate athletics was particularly beneficial.

"I've learned to be patient," said Grant. "I've been competing all my life. I'm not going to get into the ring and lose my composure."

In 1994, Grant won the Las Vegas Golden Gloves tournament and earned a bronze medal at the National Golden Gloves. He turned pro under the management of Craig Hamilton, who sought Turner as a trainer. They took the prospect to Cayton and his longtime assistant, Steve Lott. Grant now lives in Norristown, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Philadelphia, and trains at the James Shuler Memorial Gym.

"He had virtually no amateur experience, and he's developed a few bad habits," said Turner. "He has a lot of catching up to do. But he's more impressive than any young fighter out there. He just has to fight. I think he's about 12 months away from fighting the real tough heavyweights."

It is a credit to his athletic ability, as well as Turner's diligence, that Grant does not look like an amateur. He has a strong jab, considerable power, and good balance for a tall heavyweight with minimal experience. But Grant has learned by doing, not watching. He has sparred with WBA heavyweight champion Bruce Seldon, Evander Holyfield, and Jorge Luis Gonzalez.

"It wasn't tough at all," said Grant. "Coming up, I took some shots. But if that's what destroys a young fighter, it didn't affect me at all."

Turner, who also trains Holyfield, brought Grant to camp to spar with "The Real Deal" while the two-time former world champion was preparing for his rubber match with Bowe. It was during those sparring sessions that Turner realized he had a fighter with major potential.

"His poise under fire impressed me," said Turner. "I didn't see any negatives when I had him in there with Evander."

When Turner, who has also trained Larry Holmes, was asked how Grant

(Continued on page 62)

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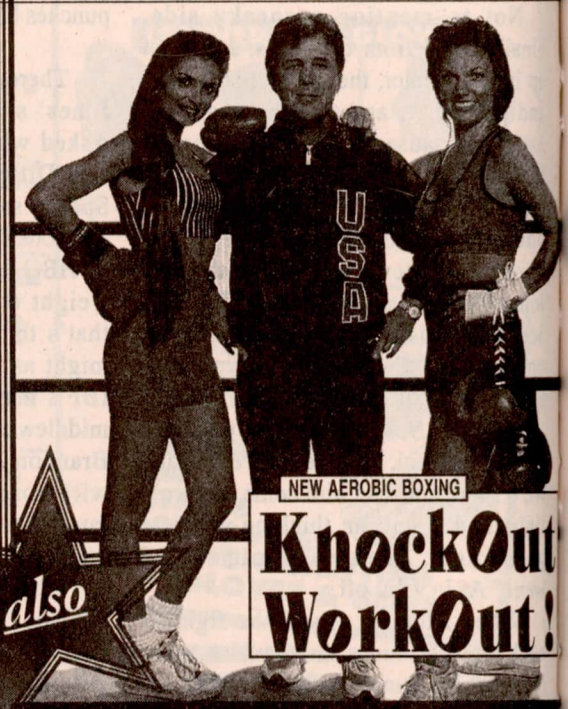

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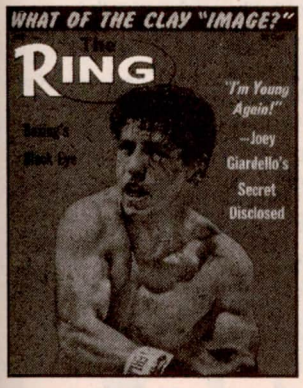

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May 1966: Who Will Tame Dick Tiger? Clay-Terrell preview, James Norris, Emile Griffith, Vicente Saldivar.

Jan. 1967: Is Time Running Out On Terrell? Plus: Torres-Tiger preview, long count mystery solved, Carlos Ortiz, Cassius Clay, Zora Folley, Johnny Persol.

April 1967: Death Stalks The Tiger. Plus: Cassius Clay, Emile Griffith, Mike Jacobs, Barney Ross, Joe Clark.

Dec. 1967: Jack Dempsey Picks Next Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Griffith-Benvenuti II, Joe Frazier, Gans-McGovern controversy, Buster Mathis.

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July 1973: Has Time Come For Ali To Quit? Plus: Ken Norton, George Foreman, Bruno Arcari, Danny Lopez, Jimmy Richards, Henry Cooper, Antonio Cervantes, Bobby Chacon.

Sept. 1973: Ali's Revenge? Muhammad Ali vs. Ken Norton—The Battle Of Broken Jaw. Plus: Frazier-Bugner, Shavers-Ellis, Chacon-Olivares, Terrell-Wepner, Monzon-Griffith.

Dec. 1974: Where Do We Go From Zaire? Plus: Bob Foster, Napoles-Lewis, Angel Mayoral, new faces, Sam Taub, Lopez-Toyoshima.

Dec. 1975: Inside Story! Ali-Frazier Super Fite III. Plus: Kotey-Olivares, Escalera-Hernandez, Lyle-Shavers, Briscoe-Gregory, Ray Robinson, Jack Schmeling.

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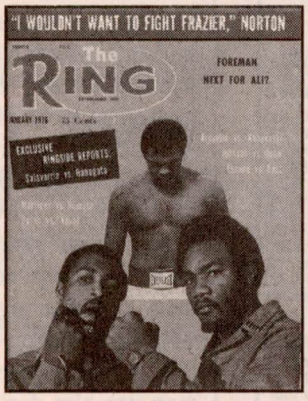

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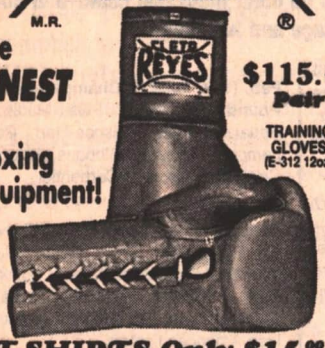
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New Faces

(Continued from page 60)

compares to the other heavyweights he's worked with, he said, "I think he could be the best of them all."

That certainly eliminates the need, at least in Turner's eyes, to compare Grant to the bevy of young, talented heavyweights that includes Shannon Briggs, Jo-el Scott, Kirk Johnson, David Tua, Danell Nicholson, Andrew Golota, and Jeremy Williams. "I've seen them all," said Turner. "If Michael has a problem with those type of guys, he will not have lived up to half his potential."

Grant was on display at Madison Square Garden in January on the Roy Jones-Merqui Sosa undercard. He did not have much of a problem beating survivor Bradley Rone, but didn't look good doing it.

"It's hard when you come out to fight and the other guy doesn't," Grant said of his reluctant foe.

Turner wasn't about to allow his disciple get off with such any easy explanation. "Michael was throwing one punch at a time," he said. "The way to go against a cutie is to throw combinations. But he got it in his head that he knew he would win. So he relaxed, and the guy was a survivor. After 14 great nights, he had a bad night."

Neither Grant nor Turner expects too many more bad nights. It is likely Grant will be fighting again at Madison Square Garden later in 1996, and HBO may use him during their new series featuring young heavyweights. Among the opponents being mentioned are Trevor Berbick and Jose Ribalta, both of whom were fighting before Grant entered high school.

"Coming up, everyone had more fights than me," said Grant. "So it's the same now. It'll be the same every time I fight. I'm used to it."

He's also used to winning, a luxury afforded by his natural talent. The kind he was born with, and the kind Turner has developed in the gym. ■

Robert Cassidy is a frequent contributor to The Ring.

Hopkins

(Continued from page 45)

up in Phoenix. I could sense it at the press conference. All the talk was just confidence-building for him."

One look at Frank's fight-by-fight record and it was easy to understand why confidence might have been a problem. After representing his native Guyana in the 1984 Olympics, he turned pro at *lightweight* in 1986. He fought 11 times in '86 and '87, winning nine times, drawing with John Collins (not the former middleweight contender), and losing on points to clubfighter Derrick McGuire. Then came one fight in 1988, another in 1990 (a kayo loss to someone named Iklef Hadjalla), and an almost-five-year layoff.

"He had visa problems and managerial problems," explained his trainer, Al Bonanni. "He took a job as a security guard in a department store in New York and worked his way up to head of security. Then the boxing bug came back and he called me."

From December 1994 to December '95, Frank scored five consecutive wins. These were his opponents and their records going into the fights: Willie Driver, 4-11; JoJo Harris, 5-12 (including four consecutive kayo losses); Kenneth Parker, 1-6 (and coming off a three-year layoff); Dennis Murdock, 2-0-1; and James Mason, 14-11-1.

Frank cracked the IBF ratings at number 10 in October 1995, and was ranked ninth at the time of the Hopkins fight. (Must've been that win over Murdock that impressed IBF ratings chairman Doug Beavers.) Bad enough he was rated at all, but Frank belonged in the ring with Hopkins as much as the Joe Pesci belongs on a date with Cindy Crawford.

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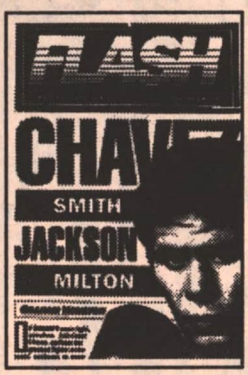

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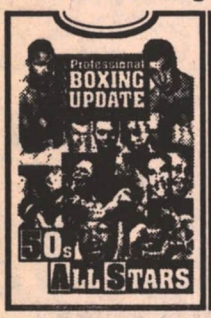

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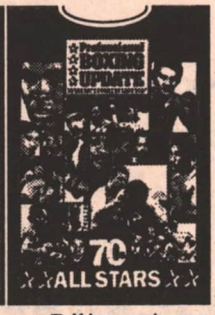

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Hopkins

(Continued from page 62)

Wood, reading our description of the fight action will take longer than the fight itself. The 31-year-old Hopkins, 159, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Frank, 160, Brooklyn, New York, answered the opening bell as fighters normally do, approaching each other and then assuming their stances at a reasonable distance. All of eight seconds passed when Hopkins, 28-2-1 (21), flashed a jab and landed a crackling right to the chin. Frank, 15-3-1 (5), began to lose his balance. Hopkins followed with two hooks that missed and a right uppercut that caught Frank flush. *Boom!*

"A perfect shot," Hopkins said of the first right hand, "but the uppercut was the one. I was working on an uppercut just like that for Lipsey. I was surprised he got up."

Frank struggled mightily to beat the count of referee Bobby Ferrara (USA). He picked himself up at nine, but after taking a good look, the third man nonetheless opted to call a halt at the 24-second mark.

"He had a hard time getting off the floor," Ferrara said of Frank. "He barely beat the count, and then he didn't put his hands up. This was a case where a guy could've gotten hurt seriously."

"I was glad the ref stopped it," said Hopkins. "I was gonna go right out there and throw everything. I saw Frank at the hotel afterward, and he told me he didn't even know what I had hit him with."

The judges, who got paid for doing even less work than Hopkins, were Aaron Kizer, John Stewart, and Sheila Harmon Martin, all from the USA.

The blink-of-an-eye kayo broke the record for the shortest world title fight in the 112-year history of the middleweight division, set by Gerald McClellan, who, in 1993, flattened Jay Bell in 30 seconds. Better yet, Hopkins' kayo tied the record for the shortest world title fight at any weight. On September 6, 1991, in Salemi, Italy, James Warring won the vacant IBF cruiserweight title by shocking James Pritchard in 24 seconds. That was a one-punch kayo, with Warring connecting with a right about 13 seconds into the bout and Pritchard being counted out.

Arnie Rosenthal, Warring's manager, was producing a music show in Laughlin, Nevada, at the time of Hopkins' record-tying knockout. A few hours after the fight, he received a phone call from one of his fighters, Bobby Czyz, who works as a boxing analyst for Fox.

"I was disappointed when Bobby told me it had been 24 seconds," said Rosenthal, "because I always felt that record had been my part of history. In 1987, I was in Marbella, Spain, working the Lloyd Honeyghan-Gene Hatcher [welterweight] title fight for FNN. That lasted 40 seconds, which broke the all-time record. Then I was in Italy with Warring when he broke *that* record."

The day after Hopkins-Frank, Rosenthal called Warring, who hadn't heard about the fight. "I said to him, 'Think you can get it down to 20, 21 seconds?'" Rosenthal said. "He said, 'Anybody put a stopwatch on it yet?' I said, 'Don't say anything or they may put a stopwatch to yours.'"

Hopkins was low-key about having tied the record, choosing to place the accomplishment in perspective. "I get paid the same for 12 rounds or 24 seconds," he said. "Maybe I made history, but if it had been a guy like Julian Jackson or John David Jackson or Terry Norris that I had knocked out, it would've held more weight.

"I need names. I think I'm in my prime now, and if I'm gonna make my mark, I have to do more than be the first fighter from Philadelphia to win the middleweight title. And I have to do more than tie the record for the fastest kayo in [title fight] history."

Maybe so, but it was fun while it lasted. ■

FISKE ON FIGHTS

By Jack Fiske

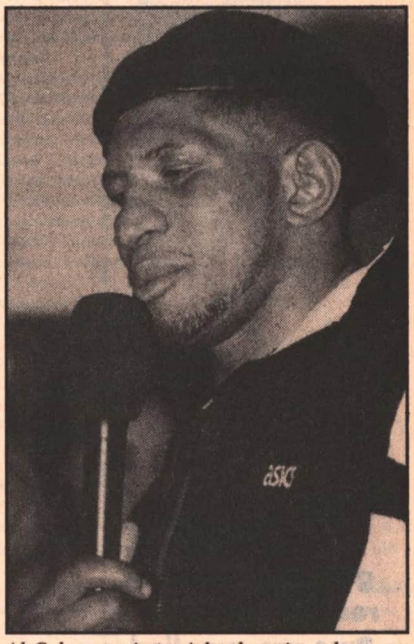


Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Al Cole, a cruiserweight champion who wants to be a heavyweight, shows the wounds of war after his 10-round loss to Tim Witherspoon.

Ever since 1791, when Daniel Mendoza, a middleweight, became the 16th heavyweight champion of England, a line of undersized would-be imitators have clamored for a chance at boxing's golden grail.

They came from all over, but in some 200 years, only two fighters, Michael Spinks and Evander Holyfield, have succeeded in emulating the 160-pound Mendoza, who is known as the father of scientific boxing.

These thoughts came to mind while watching IBF cruiserweight champion Al "Ice" Cole futilely attempt to defeat bona fide heavyweight Tim Witherspoon in order to crack the division and get in line as a legitimate contender for a future title opportunity.

Whether they're light heavyweights (175 pounds) or cruiserweights (190 pounds), the big attractions for wannabe heavyweights are the financial bonanzas earned by the champions. To that end, kingpins in the lighter divisions have crossed over as many as two weight classes to seek their fortune as heavyweights. Some of the greatest names in pugdom, among them Stanley Ketchel, Philadelphia Jack O'Brien, Bob Foster, Archie Moore, Georges Carpentier, Tommy Loughran, Billy Conn, John Henry Lewis, and Gus Lesnevich, have challenged for the title and come up short.

Spinks, the first light heavyweight champion in history to win the heavyweight title, should have an asterisk next to his feat. In winning the crown against Larry Holmes, he was the recipient of a much debated decision, and an even more controversial verdict in the rematch. He scaled 200, and then 205 pounds for the fights. A full-fledged heavyweight, he didn't suffer much in physical comparisons with Holmes.

Former cruiserweight champion Holyfield was 208 pounds when he knocked out 246-pound Buster Douglas to win his crown and a place in history. Unlike Spinks, Holyfield didn't really beef up for his title challenge. He fought six heavyweight bouts before challenging for the title. Spinks, on the other hand, jumped directly from light heavyweight to his first fight vs. Holmes.

While Cole, 215, was outweighed by only 13 pounds against two-time former champion Witherspoon, the difference in strength was very apparent. That's the argument against a lighter weight champion taking a stab at the heavyweight title. In all the aforementioned failed cases, the winner (and still champion) held a decided advantage in height, weight, and reach. The challenger simply lacked the firepower necessary to make it a level battleground. Cole brought his chin with him from cruiserweight, but he lacked the punch.

There may be somebody in the lighter weight classes who may someday emerge as a heavyweight champion, the way Ezzard Charles and Floyd Patterson did, but the physical odds are against it happening to a mature and established light heavyweight or cruiserweight.

Spinks and Holyfield are the only two of their kind.

***

Speaking of Witherspoon, wouldn't it be the height of poetic justice if "Terrible Tim," who looked sharp and performed exceptionally well against Cole, were to get a title opportunity against one of the Don King-promoted heavyweight champions? It would again be payback time for the 38-year-old Witherspoon, who sued King and received a settlement of a reported $1-million. The money was nice, but be sure a victory over a King-controlled champion would be the ultimate revenge. ■

WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by THE RING are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA ratings were compiled as of October 1995, the WBC ratings were compiled as of December 1995, and the IBF ratings were compiled as of January 1996.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Frank Bruno (GB)	C	–	–
Bruce Seldon (USA)	–	C	–
Francois Botha (SA)	–	2	C
Mike Tyson (USA)	1	1	1
Lennox Lewis (GB)	2	5	7
Oliver McCall (USA)	3	–	2
Tony Tucker (USA)	4	3	–
Henry Akinwande (GB)	5	4	4
Alexandr Zolkin (RUS)	6	9	–
Jeremy Williams (USA)	7	–	–
Larry Donald (USA)	8	–	–
Evander Holyfield (USA)	9	–	–
Andrew Golota (POL)	10	11	8
Michael Moorer (USA)	11	6	–
Lionel Butler (USA)	–	7	–
Vaughn Bean (USA)	21	8	6
Tim Witherspoon (USA)	17	10	–
Corrie Sanders (SA)	12	–	3
Axel Schulz (GER)	–	–	5
Buster Mathis Jr. (USA)	16	–	9
Obed Sullivan (USA)	–	–	10

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	–	–
Nate Miller (USA)	–	C	–
Alfred Cole (USA)	–	–	C
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	1	5	4
Torsten May (GER)	2	8	2
Robert Daniels (USA)	3	2	8
David Izeqwire (NIG)	4	–	7
Patrice Aouissi (FRA)	5	9	–
Akim Tafer (FRA)	6	–	–
Terry Dunstan (GB)	7	–	10
Carl Thompson (GB)	8	–	–
Arthur Williams (USA)	9	–	–
Brian Laspada (USA)	10	10	3
Adolpho Washington (USA)	–	1	1
Orlin Norris (USA)	14	3	–
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	–	4	–
Sergei Kobozev (RUS)	–	6	–
Norbert Ekassi (CAM)	11	7	–
Uriah Grant (USA)	–	–	5
Jacob Mofokeng (SA)	26	–	6
James Heath (USA)	–	–	9

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	C	–	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	C	–
Henry Maske (GER)	–	–	C
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	1	2	–
Montell Griffin (USA)	2	7	3
Mike McCallum (USA)	3	–	6
Merqui Sosa (DR)	4	8	11
Jose Gomez (BRA)	5	1	–
Crawford Ashley (GB)	6	–	–
Nicky Piper (GB)	7	–	–
Andrea Magi (ITA)	8	–	–
Maurice Core (GB)	9	–	–
Eric Lucas (CAN)	10	–	–
Duran Williams (USA)	–	3	1
Lou Del Valle (USA)	17	4	7
Ernie Magdaleno (USA)	14	5	–
Michael Nunn (USA)	–	6	–
Ginger Tshabalala (SA)	–	9	–
Drake Thadzi (CAN)	–	10	12
William Guthrie (USA)	25	–	2
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	–	–	4
Darrin Allen (USA)	–	–	5
Richard Hall (USA)	–	–	8
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	12	–	9
Stefan Anghern (SWI)	–	11	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Nigel Benn (GB)	C	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	–	C	–
Roy Jones (USA)	–	–	C
Thulane Malinga (SA)	1	5	–
Henry Wharton (GB)	2	–	–
Luciano Torres (BRA)	3	3	12
Bryant Brannon (USA)	4	6	1
Tim Littles (USA)	5	1	3
Frederic Seiller (FRA)	6	8	–
Michael Nunn (USA)	7	–	–
Mauro Galvano (ITA)	8	–	–
Jean-Claude M'biye (FRA)	9	–	5
Sam Storey (IRE)	10	–	–
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	–	2	–
Zafarou Ballogou (TOGO)	–	4	–
Henry Wharton (GB)	–	7	8
Tony Byrd (USA)	–	9	9
Cornelius Carr (GB)	–	10	–
Reginaldo Andrade (BRA)	–	–	2
Frank Rhodes (USA)	–	–	4
Eric Lucas (CAN)	–	–	6
Segundo Mercado (ECU)	–	–	7
Glen Johnson (USA)	27	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Quincy Taylor (USA)	C	–	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	C	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	–	C
Richie Woodhall (GB)	1	6	3
Joe Lipsey (USA)	2	8	1
Agostino Cardamone (ITA)	3	–	–
Robert McCracken (GB)	4	–	5
Dana Rosenblatt (USA)	5	–	–
Julian Jackson (USA)	6	–	–
Otis Grant (CAN)	7	–	–
John David Jackson (USA)	8	5	–
Reggie Johnson (USA)	9	3	–
Robert Allen (USA)	10	–	4
Peter Venancio (BRA)	–	1	–
William Joppy (USA)	15	2	2
Shinji Takehara (JAP)	–	4	–
Chongmo Kim (KOR)	–	7	–
Segundo Mercado (ECU)	–	9	–
Zdravo Kostic (SERB)	17	10	–
Neville Brown (GB)	14	–	6
Lloyd Bryan (USA)	–	–	7
Alex Rios (USA)	–	–	8
Steve Frank (USA)	–	–	9
Juan Viloria (COL)	–	–	10

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	–	C
Carl Daniels (USA)	–	C	7
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	1	4	10
Bronco McKart (USA)	2	6	–
Winky Wright (USA)	3	2	–
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	4	–	–
Ernie Artango (AUSTRL)	5	–	–
Godfrey Nyakana (UGA)	6	9	–
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	7	7	–
Andrew Council (USA)	8	12	6
Raul Marquez (USA)	9	–	2
Luis Santana (DR)	10	–	–
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	–	1	–
Robert McCracken (GB)	–	3	–
Julio Cesar Green (USA)	–	5	9
Darrin Morris (USA)	–	8	4
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	10	3
Keith Holmes (USA)	11	–	1
Paul Vaden (USA)	–	–	5
Giovanni Pretorious (SA)	14	–	8

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	1	4	1
Oba Carr (USA)	2	1	2
Vincent Phillips (USA)	3	–	–
Derrell Coley (USA)	4	6	9
Gary Jacobs (GB)	5	7	6
Patrick Charpentier (FRA)	6	9	4
Grahame Cheney (AUSTRL)	7	–	–
Lonnie Smith (USA)	8	–	–
Pedro Sanchez (DR)	9	–	–
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	10	3	–
Larry Barnes (USA)	–	2	–
Andrei Pestryaev (RUS)	16	5	–
Andrew Murray (GUY)	14	8	7
Guillermo Jones (PAN)	21	10	–
Maxim Nesterenko (RUS)	30	–	3
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	–	–	5
Rodney Moore (USA)	–	–	8
Sal Lopez (PR)	–	–	10

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	–	–
Frankie Randall (USA)	–	C	–
Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	–	–	C
Jan Bergman (SA)	1	6	2
David Kamau (USA)	2	8	5
Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	3	1	–
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	4	7	3
Ismael Chaves (ARG)	5	–	10
Charles Murray (USA)	6	11	8
Paul Ryan (GB)	7	–	11
Giovanni Parisi (ITA)	8	–	–
Freddie Ladd (USA)	9	5	–
Soren Sondergaard (DEN)	10	–	–
Juan Coggi (ARG)	–	2	–
Leonardo Mas (PR)	13	3	–
Hugo Pineda (COL)	–	4	1
Ross Hale (GB)	17	9	7
Jong Hoon Yuh (KOR)	–	10	–
Pedro Padilla (COL)	–	–	4
Michele Piccirillo (ITA)	22	–	6
Jermal Corbin (USA)	–	–	9

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	–
Orzubek Nazarov (JAP)	–	C	–
Phillip Holiday (SA)	–	–	C
Jean Baptist Mendy (FRA)	1	10	5
Steve Johnston (USA)	2	5	9
Lamar Murphy (USA)	3	–	–
Shane Mosley (USA)	4	–	–
Angel Mona (FRA)	5	7	–
Ivan Robinson (USA)	6	11	2
Ricardo Silva (ARG)	7	–	–
Cesar Bazan (MEX)	8	–	–
Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	9	3	–
Jeff Fenech (AUSTRL)	10	–	–
Adrianus Taroreh (INDO)	–	1	–
Leavander Johnson (USA)	–	2	–
Joey Gamache (USA)	–	4	–
Billy Schwer (GB)	17	6	–
Dindo Canoy (PHIL)	–	8	–
Antonio Rivera (PR)	–	9	–
John Lark (USA)	–	–	1
Fred Ladd (USA)	–	–	3
Miguel Julio (COL)	–	–	4
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	27	–	6
Giuseppi Sauli (ITA)	–	–	7
Demetrius Ceballos (USA)	–	–	8
Eduardo Molina (COL)	24	–	10

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	C	–	–
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	–	C	–
Arturo Gatti (USA)	–	–	C
Anatoly Alexandrov (RUS)	1	2	9
Gabriel Ruelas (USA)	2	–	–
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	3	–	–
Djamel Lifa (FRA)	4	5	6
Pedro Gutierrez (ARG)	5	–	–
Julien Lorcy (FRA)	6	3	8
Floyd Havard (GB)	7	8	–
Boris Sinitsin (RUS)	8	–	4
Rafael Meran (DR)	9	–	–
Justin Juuko (UGA)	10	–	–
Orlando Soto (PAN)	–	1	–
Carlos Gerena (PR)	–	4	–
Victor Hugo Paz (ARG)	–	6	–
Jesse James Leija (USA)	–	7	–
Edson Suxa Nacimento (BRA)	–	9	–
Gilberto Gonzalez (VEN)	–	10	–
Tracy Patterson (USA)	–	–	1
Wilson Rodriguez (DR)	–	–	2
Robert Garcia (USA)	14	–	3
Jeff Fenech (AUSTRL)	–	–	5
Cliff Samardin (AUSTRL)	18	–	7
Jaime Rangel (COL)	–	–	10

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Luisito Espinoza (PHIL)	C	11	–
Eloy Rojas (VEN)	–	C	–
Tom Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Cesar Soto (MEX)	1	–	–
Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)	2	–	–
Manuel Medina (MEX)	3	–	–
Carlos Rios (ARG)	4	–	–
Ever Beleno (COL)	5	3	1
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	6	–	2
Kevin Kelley (USA)	7	–	–
Tsuyoshi Harada (JAP)	8	–	–
Yuji Watanabe (JAP)	9	6	–
Billy Hardy (GB)	10	–	5
Miguel Arrozal (PHIL)	16	1	11
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	–	2	6
Yung Kyun Park (KOR)	–	4	–
Cesar Soto (PAN)	–	5	–
Jose Badillo (PR)	–	7	7
Mehdi Labdouni (FRA)	17	8	–
Victor Polo (COL)	25	9	9
Jun Gorres (PHIL)	28	10	–
Orlando Soto (PAN)	15	–	3
David Santos (USA)	13	–	4
November Ntshingila (AUSTRL)	–	–	8
Mike Garcia (USA)	29	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	C	–	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	C	–
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	C
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	1	–	–
Erik Morales (MEX)	2	6	–
Hector Acero-Sanchez (DR)	3	–	–
Julio Gervacio (DR)	4	–	–
Jesse Benavides (USA)	5	–	–
Yuichi Kasai (JAP)	6	3	7
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	7	8	–
Junior Jones (USA)	8	7	8
Bong Chul Kim (KOR)	9	11	–
Enrique Jupiter (MEX)	10	–	–
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	29	1	9
Yober Ortega (VEN)	–	2	–
Alex Pak (THAI)	–	4	–
Jesus Salud (USA)	–	5	–
Tsuyoshi Harada (JAP)	–	9	–
Guty Espadas (MEX)	11	10	–
Pablo Ozuna (COL)	–	–	1
Welcome Ncita (SA)	12	–	2
Anton Gilmore (SA)	13	–	3
Nurhuda (INDO)	–	–	4
Daniel Alicer (PR)	–	–	5
Salim Medjkoune (FRA)	16	–	6
Victor Llerena (COL)	–	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	C	–	–
Veerapol Sahaprom (THAI)	–	C	–
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	–	C
Khaoyai Mahasarakam (THAI)	1	–	–
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	2	–	–
John Armour (GB)	3	7	2
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	4	–	–
Pastor Maurin (ARG)	5	–	–
Ancee Gedeon (USA)	6	–	1
In Jin Chi (KOR)	7	–	–
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	8	–	–
Paul Ayala (USA)	9	12	5
Somboon Pantasi (THAI)	10	–	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	–	1	11
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	–	2	–
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	–	3	–
Lukhin CP Gym (THAI)	–	4	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	13	5	–
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	–	6	–
Abraham Torres (VEN)	15	8	–
Jorge Eliecer Julio (COL)	19	9	10
Chang Kyun Oh (KOR)	26	10	–
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	3
Tim Austin (USA)	–	–	4
Torsak Pongsopha (THAI)	–	–	6
Harold Mestre (COL)	–	–	7
Sergio Reyes (USA)	25	–	8
Harold Grey (COL)	–	–	9

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	C	–	–
Alimi Goitia (VEN)	–	C	–
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	–	–	C
Cecilio Espino (MEX)	1	6	6
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	2	4	–
Luis Bolano (COL)	3	–	–
David Griman (VEN)	4	1	–
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	5	2	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	6	–	–
Julio Gamboa (NIC)	7	3	–
Seung Koo Lee (KOR)	8	8	–
Domingo Sosa (DR)	9	–	–
Angel Rosario (PR)	10	–	–
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	–	5	–
Hyung Chul Lee (KOR)	–	7	–
Boy Aruan (INDO)	12	9	–
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	–	10	–
Jaji Sibali (SA)	26	–	1
Danny Romero (USA)	–	–	2
Ubadel Soto (COL)	–	–	3
Ricky Matulessi (INDO)	–	–	4
Jose Diaz (USA)	–	–	5
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	21	–	7
Andy Agosto (PR)	–	–	8
Orlando Tobon (COL)	–	–	9
Cesar Singo (EQU)	–	–	10

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	C	–	–
Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Mark Johnson (USA)	1	–	1
Chatchai Elite-Gym (THAI)	2	–	–
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	3	11	9
Chokchai 3-K Battery (THAI)	4	2	–
Daniel Ward (SA)	5	8	–
Enrique Orozco (MEX)	6	3	–
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	7	–	11
Luigi Camputaro (ITA)	8	–	–
Gabriel Mira (MEX)	9	–	–
Ladislao Vazquez (MEX)	10	–	–
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	1	–
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	–	4	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	–	5	5
Sung Tae Lim (KOR)	29	6	–
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	22	7	–
Luis Benavides (COL)	–	9	–
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	13	10	–
Robbie Regan (GB)	14	–	2
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	–	–	3
Chatchai Sasakul (THAI)	–	–	4
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	–	–	6
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	16	–	7
Yodchingchai Sornthong (THAI)	–	–	8
Manuel Jesus Herrera (DR)	–	–	10

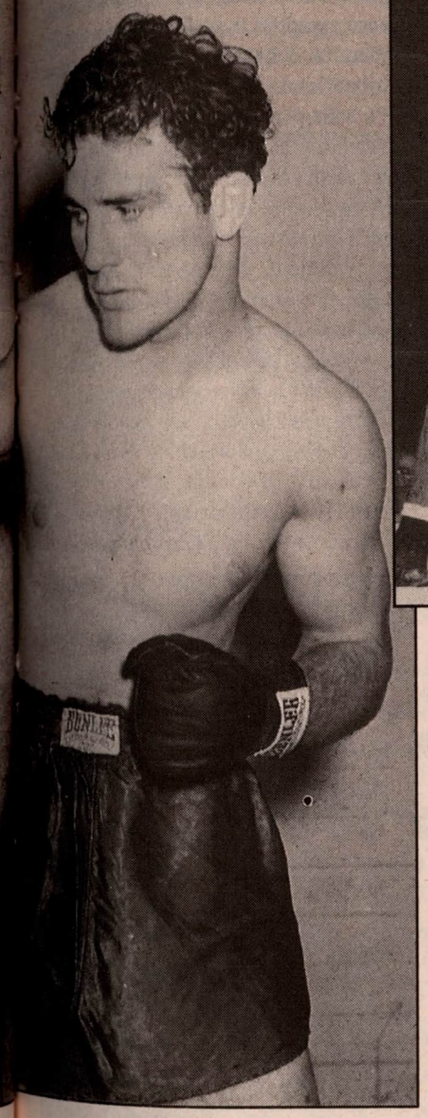
JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	C	–	–
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	1	7	1
Chiquita Gonzalez (MEX)	2	–	6
Michael Carbajal (USA)	3	2	2
Manuel Jesus Herrera (DR)	4	8	–
Eric Griffin (USA)	5	9	4
Miguel Angel Granados (MEX)	6	–	–
Hadao C.P. Gym (THAI)	7	6	–
Yamil Caraballo (COL)	8	–	–
Phanieng Sasiprabha-Poontarat (THAI)	9	–	–
Yuichi Hosono (JAP)	10	4	–
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	1	–
Pichitnoi Sithbangprachan (THAI)	–	3	–
Jin Ho Kim (KOR)	–	5	–
Jose Garcia (COL)	–	10	–
Mauricio Pastrana (COL)	–	–	3
P.S. Wonjongkam (THAI)	–	–	5
Yani Malhendo (INDO)	–	–	7
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	16	–	8
Onewin Chareon (THAI)	–	–	9
James Wanene (KEN)	–	–	10

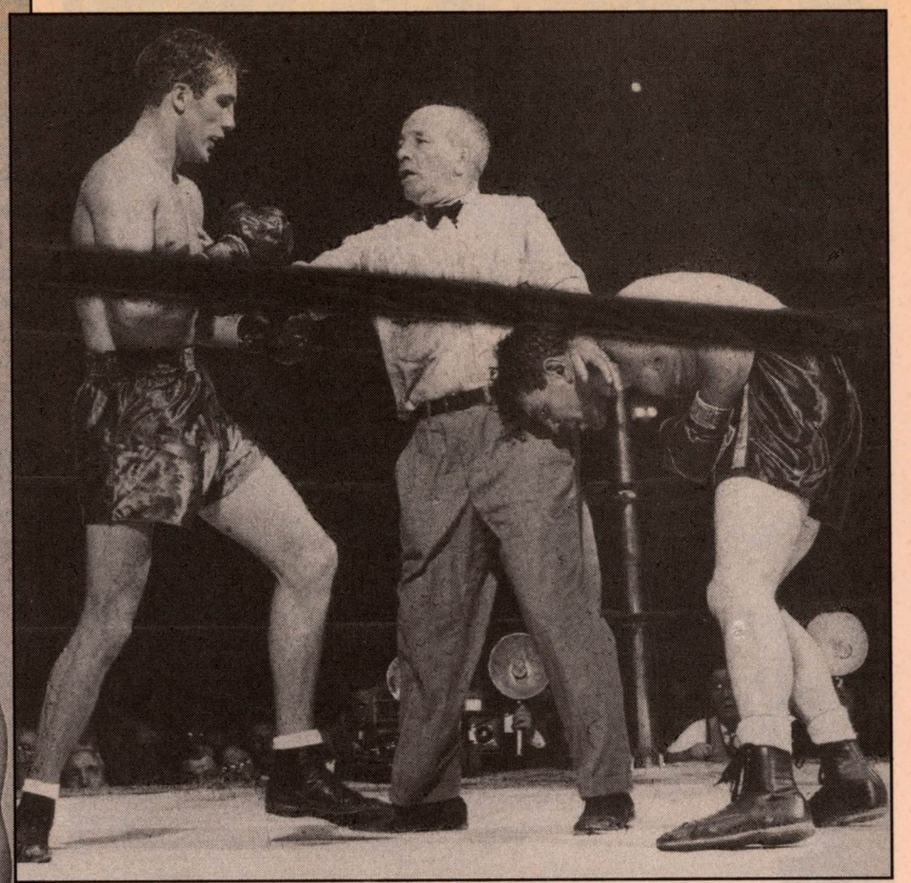
STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	C	–
Ratanapol Vorapin (THAI)	–	–	C
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	1	3	6
Kermin Guardia (COL)	2	2	7
Rocky Lin (JAP)	3	7	9
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	4	5	–
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	5	11	–
Yodsing Saengmorokot (THAI)	6	–	–
Pichitnoi Sithbangprachan (THAI)	7	–	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	8	–	1
Manny Melchor (PHIL)	9	–	–
Nungdiew Sakcharporn (THAI)	10	–	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	–	1	–
Kwanjai Battery (THAI)	–	4	–
Osvaldo Guerrero (MEX)	–	6	3
Shinichi Tamaki (JAP)	14	8	2
Nico Thomas (INDO)	24	9	–
Seo Kjin Yang (KOR)	–	10	–
Ernesto Rubillar (PHIL)	–	–	4
Lee Salvador (NIC)	–	–	5
Rafael Torres (USA)	–	–	8
Jack Russell (AUSTRL)	–	–	10

The case of the good big man vs. the good little man revived in his match with Joe Louis

PRECEDENT AGAINST CONN

If Billy Conn looks a bit skinny to take on heavyweight champion Joe Louis, that's because he's only a light heavyweight—and a small light heavyweight at that.





Those who question Conn's ability to fight as a heavyweight should be reminded of his 13th-round stoppage of Bob Pastor at Madison Square Garden in 1940.

From The Ring, April 1941

By T.W. McNeil

From what I can hear, this eternal feud between good big guys and their equally good but smaller fellow men had its origin way back there in the Phillistines, when David, a scrawny bantam, put the slug on heavyweight Goliath. However, history tells us that wee David violated a rule or two when he resorted to the illegal use of a slingshot to conquer the brawny Goliath.

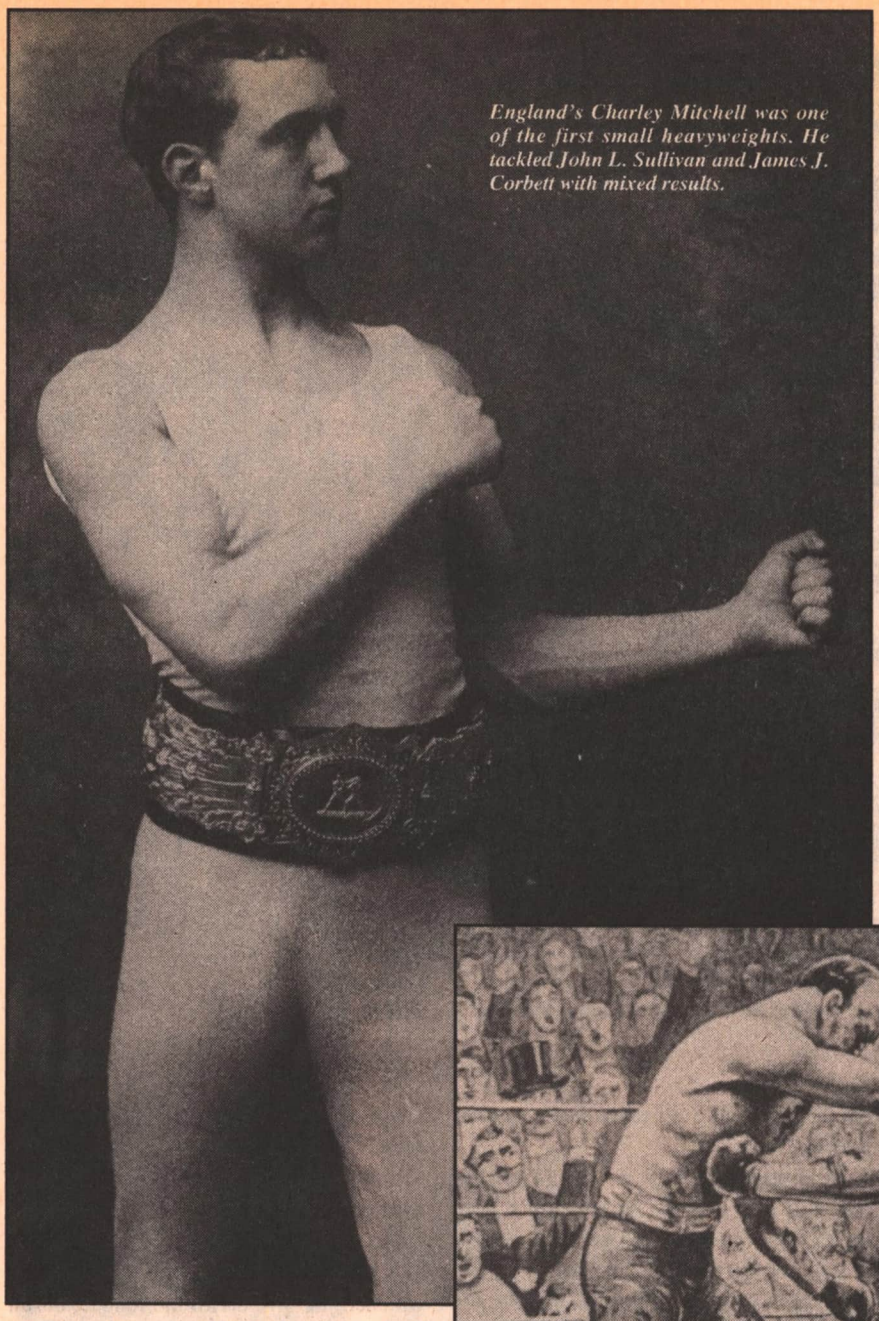
And these little guys have been striving like mad ever since in an effort to follow the footsteps laid out by David. Especially is this so in the ranks of professional pugdom. Sure, there have been mighty but little ringmen, plenty of them, but their share of successes against their huge brethren have been so few and far between that somebody, somewhere, coined the well-known phrase, "A good big man will always beat a good little man." And the adage, aged that it is, still holds water as well as ever.

Of course, there are rare exceptions to the rule. For instance, there was England's mighty Tom Sayers, little more than a middleweight, who blossomed in the now-forgotten bare-knuckle days. Sayers was a heavyweight champion way back there in our own Civil War days, and don't let them tell you that fisticuffing in those rough-and-ready days was a parlor pastime.

But with the passing of Sayers, the star of ascendancy for the little fellows began to go into eclipse. Merry Britain thought she had another Sayers when Charley Mitchell, he of the vitriolic tongue, began to make headlines during the reign of John L. Sullivan.

Sullivan won an easy victory the first time he and Mitchell clashed, and when Sully was offered a second helping of the same dish, he readily accepted.

This time things weren't so easy for Sullivan. He and the little British bulldog began teeing off on each other's features in an outdoor ring pitched on the banks of the River Seine in France. They had little more than gotten underway when rain began to fall in torrents. Fighting ankle-deep in mud wasn't much of a benefit for the lumbering Sullivan, while the nimble-footed Mitchell proved himself a wonderful mudder.



England's Charley Mitchell was one of the first small heavyweights. He tackled John L. Sullivan and James J. Corbett with mixed results.

Thus the pair splashed and sloshed away at each other through the greater part of the murky afternoon. And when 39 rounds had finally been reeled off, a draw was the best Mitchell could get.

Still believing he could master any of the big fellows, Mitchell came over here a few years later and got his ears slapped off in three rounds by then-heavyweight champion James J. Corbett. And Corbett's punching power wasn't anything to write home about.

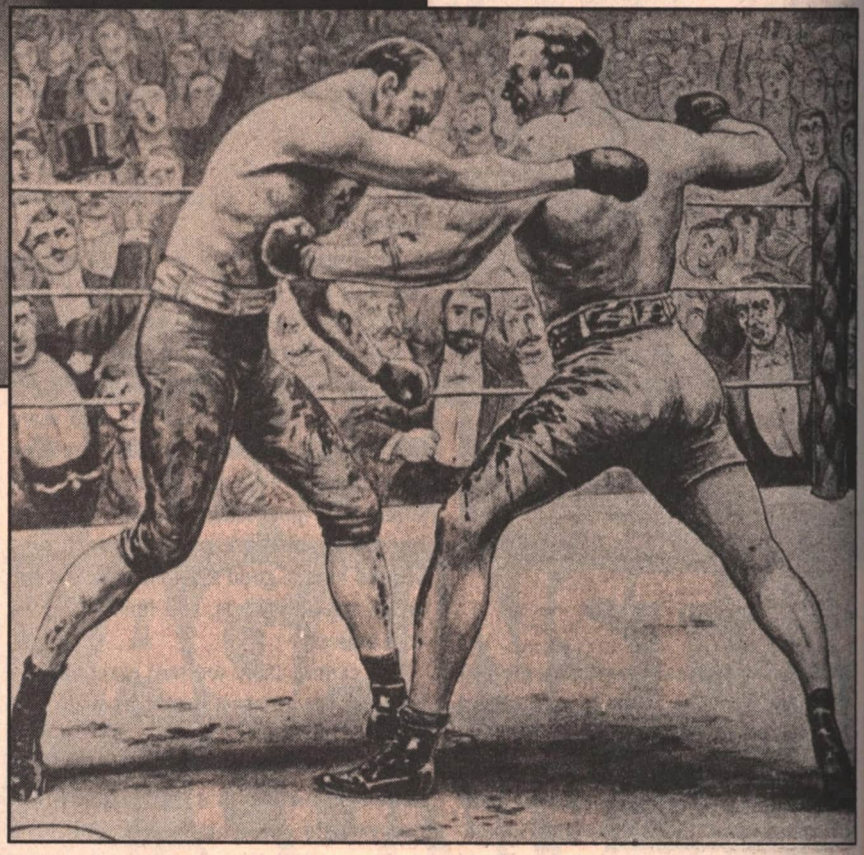
***

Of course, Ruby Bob Fitzsimmons came along a few annums later and gave the little men something to bolster their spirits. Little more than a heavy middleweight, Fitzsimmons brought to the ring wars one of the most devastating wallops of all-time. But there was only one Fitzsimmons, and I seriously doubt there'll ever be another. And eventually, even Fitz himself stumbled when called upon to fight the gigantic James J. Jeffries.

In this ring classic, Fitzsimmons enjoyed every advantage known to ring science except in that all-important matter of beef and brawn. In the end, Fitz smashed his knuckles to smithereens on Jeff's boilerplate anatomy, and was finally knocked out himself after both his offensive weapons had been put out of action.

A few years later, after Jeffries had gone into retirement, a small but mighty warrior came to the ring wars. His name was Tommy Burns. A Canadian by birth, Burns licked a corral full of second-raters and downright palookas to win recognition as the world's heavyweight champion.

Burns was a short, stocky fellow, standing about 5'8", and weighing in the neighborhood of 170 pounds. As long as the competition wasn't too stiff, Burns was a whiz, but the day they turned him loose in



Bob Fitzsimmons (left) may have been a better boxer than Jim Jeffries, but he lacked the size to compete with the 6'2½" giant, and he suffered stoppage defeats in both of their battles.

the roped arena with 220-pound Jack Johnson down in faraway Australia on Christmas Day back in 1908, Burns' pitiable lack of heft was the biggest factor in his one-sided 14-round technical kayo defeat.

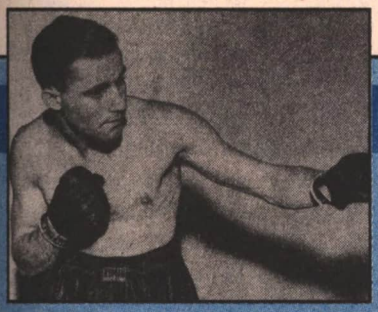
Incidentally, it was this same Jack Johnson, a veritable dusky jungle cat, that turned back a rousing challenge by Stanley Ketchel, one of the grandest little fighting men that ever laced on a fighting glove. But at less than 170 pounds, even Ketchel couldn't overcome a weight handicap of 50 pounds when he faced the huge Galveston, Texas, black. True, the Polish thunderbolt made a fight of it, but was eventually flattened in the 12th session.

***

After Burns and Ketchel had proven that little men weren't equal to the task of beating big men, the little warriors let well enough alone for a few years. Then, with the World War at an end, lion-hearted Gorgeous Georges Carpentier, a hero of the French air corps, and one of the most popular ring heroes of all-time, was brought to America to fight Jack Dempsey for the world's title.

The date was July 2, 1921, and Dempsey was at the very peak of his fistic greatness. Consequently, it was no surprise that the pale 175-pound French idol fell victim to Dempsey's tigerish attack. He simply did not possess the necessary poundage to cope with a snarling man-mauler as was Dempsey that blistering afternoon.

A couple of years later, Tom Gibbons, as sweet a socker as you'd ever want to



Harry Jeffra

THE RING RATINGS, *April 1941*

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Joe Louis
1. Max Baer
2. Arturo Godoy
3. Lou Nova
4. Red Burman
5. Jim Thompson
6. Eddie Blunt
7. Lem Franklin
8. Tony Shucco
9. Buddy Walker
10. Turkey Thompson

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Billy Conn
1. Anton Christoforidis
2. Jimmy Webb
3. Gus Lesnevich
4. Teddy Yarosz
5. Melio Bettina
6. Tommy Tucker
7. Mose Brown
8. Jimmy Reeves
9. Solly Krieger
10. Lloyd Marshall

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Title Vacant
1. Ken Overlin
2. Tony Zale
3. Billy Soose
4. Jimmy Bivins
5. Georgie Abrams
6. Shorty Hogue
7. Tony Fernandez
8. Andre Jessurun
9. Steve Belloise
10. Ernie Vigh

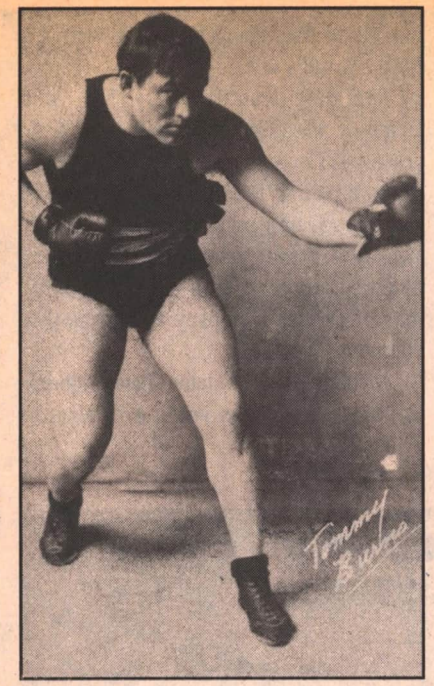
WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Fritzie Zivic
1. Izzy Jannazzo
2. Charley Burley
3. Mike Kaplan
4. Holman Williams
5. Jimmy Leto
6. Tony Marteliano
7. Kid Azteca
8. Bob Montgomery
9. Maxie Berger
10. Baby Breese

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Lew Jenkins
1. Sammy Angott
2. Jackie Wilson
3. Davey Day
4. Baby Arizmendi
5. Dave Castilloux
6. Leo Rodak
7. Toby Vigil
8. George Latka
9. Pete Lello
10. Aldo Spoldi

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Harry Jeffra
1. Chalky Wright
2. Pete Scalzo
3. Jimmy Perrin
4. Jackie Wilson
5. Everette Rightmire
6. Joe Marinelli
7. Mike Raffa
8. Larry Bolvin
9. Bill Speary
10. Sal Bartolo

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Title Vacant
1. Lou Salica
2. Tommy Forte
3. Tony Olivera
4. Jim Brady
5. Kid Tanner
6. Kui Kong Young
7. Frankie Donato
8. Freddy Pope
9. Lou Transparenti
10. Johnny Juliano

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Title Vacant
1. Little Dado
2. Jackie Paterson
3. Manuel Ortiz
4. Little Pancho
5. Jackie Jurich
6. Tiny Bostock
7. Joe Curran
8. Jimmy Stewart
9. Paddy Ryan
10. Small Montana



Canada's Tommy Burns overcame his lack of size and won the world heavyweight title. He was no match, however, for mighty Jack Johnson, who beat him with ease.

see, assayed to swap wallops with "The Manassa Mauler" in that memorable Independence Day battle staged in a sun-baked arena out at the little Montana cow-town of Shelby.

That afternoon saw a Gibbons in the full bloom of his ring glory, but handicapped by lack of weight, he saw Dempsey shrug off his Sunday wallops with a sneer and wade through what ring experts told us was an impregnable defense and batter even Tom Gibbons about almost as he pleased.

No matter what they tell you, it was that lack of poundage, more than any other one thing, that contributed to Gibbons' downfall in that engagement.

We had another glaring example of what lack of heft can do when Tommy Loughran collided with gigantic Primo Carnera several years ago. Loughran had forgotten more boxing knowledge than Carnera ever knew; he possessed a left jab that was a marvel of perfection; he was a ring general par-excellence. Yet Carnera, awkward, crude, and slow-hoofed, experienced little or no difficulty in repelling the attack of brilliant little Loughran. Simply too much poundage.

And now Mike Jacobs has arranged for another of the long list of little fighting men to swap punches with one of the grandest punchers the Queensberry game has ever uncovered.

That is the coming bout between Billy Conn and Joe Louis. Perhaps Conn is the best of the list of challengers. Certainly he does figure to draw a better gate with the Bomber than anyone else. But does that mean the good-looking Pittsburgh youngster has any real chance of beating Louis?

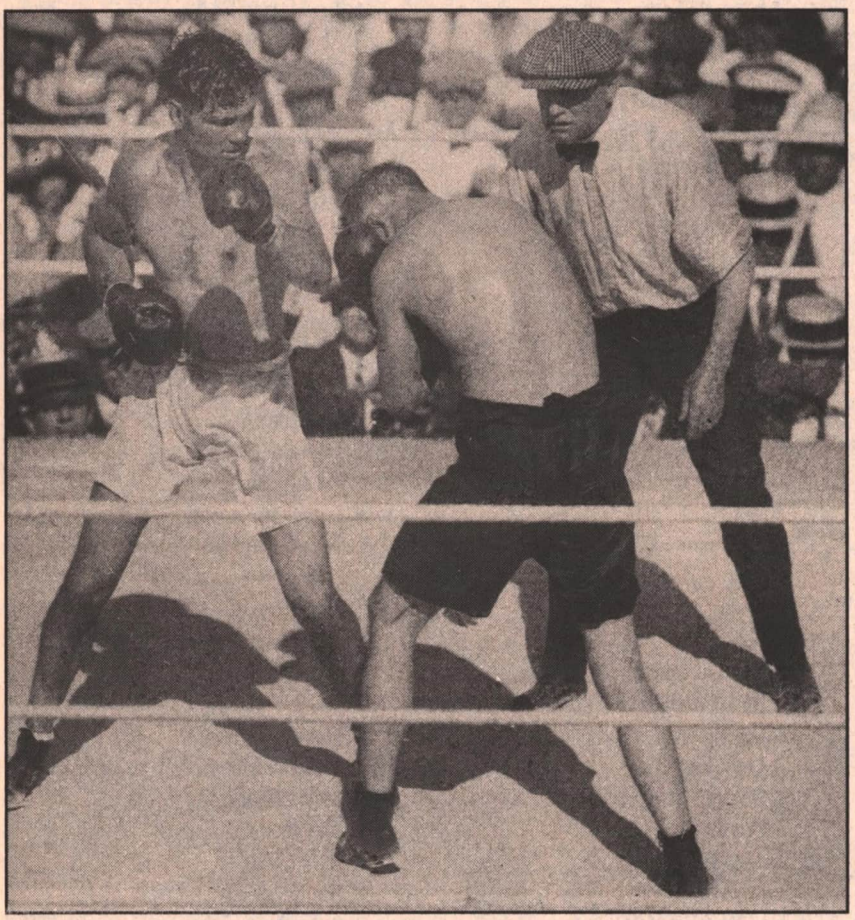
Let's look at it from this angle: Conn is a light heavyweight—a light one at that. He possesses a remarkable left jab, but I doubt it is one iota better than the one Loughran used to carry to the wars. Then, you don't knock men over with a left jab—at least not men like Joe Louis.

Conn's list of knockout victims is almost nil—Bob Pastor and Gus Dorazio are two, and the rest of them are men named Joe. Insofar as a sock is concerned, Conn doesn't begin to compare with Tommy Burns, Stanley Ketchel, Tom Gibbons, and Georges Carpentier. This quartet, despite their lack of heft, could knock a man dead with a single wallop if they could get it over. Conn can't do this.

***

The drums of ballyhoo are already pounding away, as the experts tell us Conn's matchless speed and science will have Louis all at sea before the fight is half-over. Frankly, this corner can't see it that way. We don't take any stock in the theory that Louis goes to pieces when things don't go according to Hoyle. Maybe he isn't the ring general that was Jim Corbett, Bob Fitzsimmons, and Jack Johnson, but Deadpan Joe knows his way from one corner to the other, and don't let them tell you he will become demoralized when Conn starts stabbing out that flickering left. Besides, check up a bit and see if Louis doesn't possess a fair left jab of his own.

No, ladies and gents, much as we'd like to see Billy Conn wearing the royal robe, we can't see it in the old crystal ball. We've seen these little men come and go along the fistic firing line—we've seen them look like a million dollars when the



Heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey was a big heavyweight for his day, and a big hitter, too. He wasn't able to stop master boxer Tommy Gibbons during their 1923 title fight, but the challenger was much too small to hurt "The Manassa Mauler," and Dempsey won a 15-round decision.

Philadelphia Jack O'Brien (left) and Harry Greb were a pair of all-time greats who never feared squaring off against bigger fighters.

opposition was crude, slow, and inexperienced. We've seen them send the experts into ecstasies with burst after burst of skillful boxing and rounds of TNT punching power.

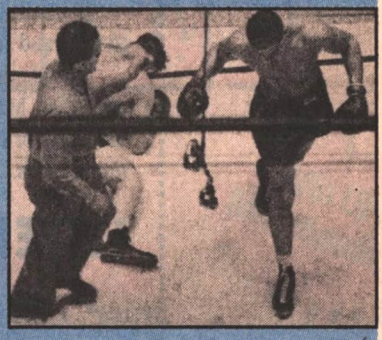
Ring history is studded with the deeds of these little fighting men—Battling Levinsky, Jack Dillon, Harry Greb, Billy Miske, Sam Langford, Philadelphia Jack O'Brien, Joe Choynski, Kid McCoy, Mike Schreck, and Jim Hall—to name only a few, but without fail they faltered when their big moments came. Not because they lacked skill, stamina, and the will to win, but because of that all-important item—weight.

And now they're asking Billy Conn to accomplish what these great ring men failed to do. They're even asking more of Billy boy—they're asking him to meet Joe Louis at his very best, and they're asking him to spot the Bomber no less than 25 pounds in the bargain. ■

THE RING, April 1941

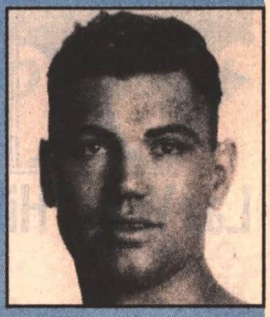
The Cover: It's time to pay homage to Henry Armstrong, who, at Madison Square Garden, lost his return bout vs. welterweight champion Fritzie Zivic by 12th-round stoppage. The bout, presumably Armstrong's last, drew a record gathering of 23,190.

Courageous Farewells: In light of Henry Armstrong's defeat at the hands of Fritzie Zivic, Harry Markson examines the great fighters who "went out swinging." Among those featured: Jimmy Wilde, Billy Petrolle, Barney Ross (pictured), and Jimmy Braddock.



Louis' Latest: Heavyweight champion Joe Louis keeps rolling along. Reporting from ringside at Madison Square Garden, Editor Nat Fleischer details "The Brown Bomber's" defense against Red Burman. The challenger surprises ringsiders by attacking, but he's mowed down in five rounds.

Fighters' Superstitions: Famed boxing writer Hype Igoe looks at the ring's most superstitious fighters. Stanley Ketchel used to place his worn-out cap on a ringpost. Harry Wills (pictured) would never talk about an opponent until the fight was over. And James J. Corbett always carried a horseshoe with him at training camp.



The Secrets Of The Greats: Ted Carroll highlights the secrets of boxing's immortals. For Benny Leonard, balance was of paramount importance. Jack Johnson and Joe Gans believed stance was critical. And Jack Dempsey (pictured) prided himself on putting his weight behind his punch.

LOOKING AHEAD

By Steve Farhood

Norris: Calling for "Sweet Pea"

TERRY NORRIS: TERRIBLY BOLD

Can Terry Norris *embarrass* Pernell Whitaker into a fight? It seems that's exactly what boxing's only partly unified champion is trying to do. WBC welterweight champion Whitaker has something Norris, the WBC/IBF 154-pound titlist, wants: the unofficial title of best fighter, pound-for-pound, in the world, at least according to some experts and publications, of which THE RING is one.

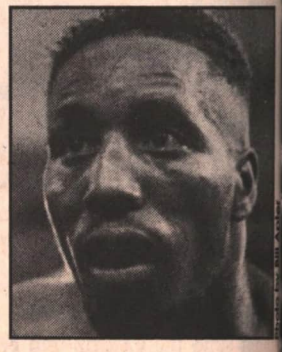
After Norris quickly kayoed Jorge Luis Vado in January, he told a national television audience, "C'mon, Pernell Whitaker, I'll fight you." Instead, Norris is likely to be matched with Vincent Pettway and then WBA junior middleweight champion Julio Cesar Vasquez.

Norris fights for Don King, and Whitaker for Main Events, which makes a showdown improbable. But that hasn't stopped "Terrible Terry" from mouthing off. In an interview with *KO*, a sister publication of THE RING, Norris said, "I challenge Whitaker to quit hiding behind people, quit saying he's pound-for-pound, the best fighter in the world. Let him stand in the ring with me and say he's pound-for-pound, *show* me he's pound-for-pound the best fighter in the world. I believe I am, and I'm ready to put it on the line.

"Pernell, I'm willing to come down to your weight and fight at 147 pounds—in your hometown! I'm ready to fight and settle it all right now."

Whitaker is scheduled to face Wilfredo Rivera in April, and WBA welterweight champion Ike Quartey after that. Maybe he and Norris can find time for each other later this year. If THE RING can help make the match by printing challenges like this one, we're more than happy to oblige. And to think, we charge no sanctioning fees.

LISTEN UP



Jones: Showdown with Canizales

In a crossroads junior featherweight matchup, former bantamweight champions **Junior Jones** and **Orlando Canizales** will square off on March 23 in New York City. The winner will be all but guaranteed a title shot ... **Danny Romero**, who recently vacated the IBF flyweight title because of his inability to make 112 pounds, is now campaigning at bantamweight. Look for him to secure a shot at IBF champion **Mbulelo Botile** ... **Saman Sorjaturong**, who had previously been one of boxing's two partly unified champions, gave up the IBF 108-pound crown before his November defense against **Yuichi Hosono**. Look for a pair of former world champions, **Michael Carbajal** and **Melchor Cob Castro**, to vie for the vacant title ... WBA welterweight champion **Ike Quartey** will defend against powerpuncher **Vince Phillips** on the **Pernell Whitaker-Wilfredo Rivera** card in April.

Las Vegas Hilton

FUTURE FIGHTS

By Art Manteris

VP/Director of Race and Sports Operations Las Vegas Hilton SuperBook

Favorite	Underdog	Odds	The Skinny
Frankie Randall	Juan Coggi	2-1	I wonder how Randall can get robbed this time
Ike Quartey	Vince Phillips	5-2	Anxious to see more of the talented Quartey
Evander Holyfield	Tim Witherspoon	3-2	But I desperately hope Holyfield never fights again
Tim Witherspoon	Ray Mercer	5-2	Witherspoon suddenly a real contender again

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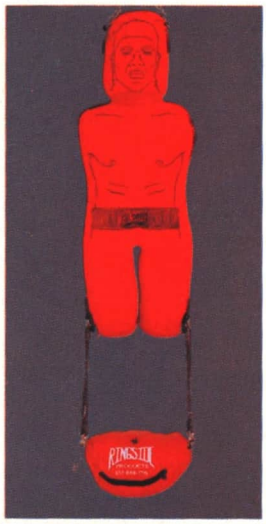

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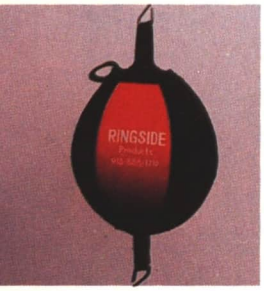

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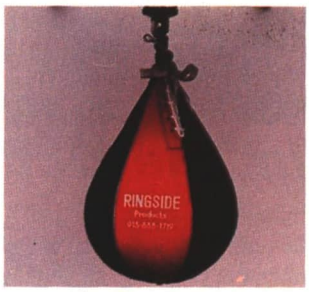

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If Order Is	Add
0.00 to 49.99	$5
50.00 to 99.99	$8
100.00 to 149.99	$10
150.00 to 249.99	$12
250.00 to 499.99	$15
500.00 to 999.99	$20
1000.00 & up	$25

(C.O.D. Orders-Add $4.50)